

TreeHouse Droppings



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30+ years of giving back to the wild

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Sherry Droste*
(Dir. of Environment Education)

*TreeHouse Wildlife Center has
two full-time staff members
paid through a grant.
All other staff are volunteers.

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We'll Keep The Light On!

by Lynn Schreiber

As I write this it's hard to believe that four months have gone by since purchasing the Dow property. Unlike others who acquire a new home and are able to just "move in", we had to go through a transition process that is ongoing. There were many projects that needed to happen first, including modifying existing structures into animal wards, adding handicap accessible bathrooms, and constructing outdoor cages for the eventual placement of animals still housed in Brighton.

It seemed to be slow going in the beginning, despite the fact that there were many things happening at the same time. Efforts began in earnest to coordinate a construction plan for the interior modifications, and to design outdoor cage complexes for the rehabilitation and education animals. The Environmental Education Center was organized with displays and activity areas in preparation of upcoming programs, and office areas were organized for staff.

Before long, real signs of progress began to appear on a daily basis. New volunteer recruits were organized into teams, and these teams began to maintain the grounds, take care of housekeeping needs in the center, and volunteer on scheduled workdays. Demolition and construction projects were well underway in the Mammal Ward and Exam Room, and piles of construction materials began to appear in various locations around the facility.

By the end of October, two decks on the north side of the building had been transformed into cages, and construction began on the first new outdoor cage complex, all of which would house permanent resident birds of prey. In the Environmental Education Center, programs and workshops were being scheduled on a regular basis. On October 24 and 25, TreeHouse held its first annual open house from the new site, and welcomed visitors and supporters to the facility.

The past is just a memory that continues to fade as we move closer to becoming fully operational from our new home. A year ago we were looking to close our doors, and the vision for the future was but a dream. Today that dream is reality. We have come a long way in four short months, and while we have accomplished a great deal, we have much more to do. Despite the work that lies ahead, TreeHouse staff and volunteers are motivated and optimistic about the future, and grateful for the opportunity to continue to provide services to wildlife and human communities from this unique and special place.

Rehab Ramblings

by Pam Lippert



Recent notable admissions since the last newsletter include a Merlin admitted this fall hit by a car near Nokomis. Merlins are small falcons, slightly larger than a Kestrel. They are darker colored overall. The only time we see them in Illinois is during spring and fall migrations, as they do not nest in Illinois. They nest in northern North America and winter in the southern United States through Central America. Like most falcons, they feed on small birds and were formerly called “pigeon hawks”.

Merlin

Another unusual patient this summer was a Double crested Cormorant found in a parking lot in Highland. It may have crashed onto the pavement thinking it was water, and was unable to take flight again. This happens with other birds such as Grebes and Loons. Formally endangered in Illinois, they feed mostly on fish and are noted for the ability to dive.

Double-crested Cormorant



Photo by Adele Moore



As far as other birds, we are on track to surpass admissions in 2008 and possibly 2009. We have received a record number of Barred Owls already — **39** — and the year isn't over yet. This compares to 38 in 2009 and 21 in 2008.

“Boomerang” the Barred Owl

Photo by Pat Fitzgerald

Rehab Ramblings continued from page 2

The decision was made earlier this year to admit birds only, due to the fact that we were moving from Brighton to Dow and needed to lighten our load a bit. The one exception to that decision was to admit **Bobcat** kittens because we have the experience and the cages to raise orphans for release.



This year we accepted three kittens — two in the spring from Sparta, and one from Eldred this fall.

Kestrel numbers seem to be up, especially the young, which is encouraging since they seemed to be in decline everywhere. We've already admitted **32** this year compared to 20 in 2009 and 25 in 2008.

Great Horned Owl numbers are about average — **21** — compared to 25 in 2009 and 23 in 2008.

Cooper's Hawks are about average also — **10** — for this year compared to 14 in 2009 and 11 in 2008

Red-Tailed Hawk numbers seem a little down — **16** so far compared to 25 in 2009 and 17 in 2008. This may change as a lot of the admissions lately have been red tails.

Screech Owl numbers continue to go down — **7** this year compared to 11 last year and 10 in 2008.

In Memoriam

TreeHouse recently lost our longtime permanent resident Kestrel “**Lucy**”. She came to us 12-1/2 years ago. She was admitted to TreeHouse the summer of her first year after landing on people’s heads in Granite City. We surmised that someone had found her a few weeks earlier, before she was able to fly, took her home and fed her until she could fly and then let her go. When found as a human imprint bird, she was doing the only thing she knew and that was seek out human companionship. Lucy appeared at many booths and programs over the last 12-1/2 years, and she will be deeply missed.

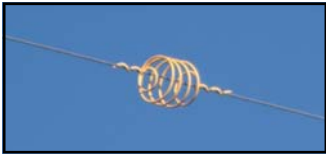


**Lucy the Kestrel
as she appeared at her
12th and final
Open House
just a few weeks ago.**

Photo by Sharon Gwillim



Photo by Pat Fitzgerald



Swan Diverters

by Adele Moore

Conservationists from several organizations (including TreeHouse), representatives from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Ameren Electric gathered on a clear, crisp fall morning in October at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary to witness installation of swan diverters.

The Trumpeter Swan population has increased to 400-500 overwintering birds in the Riverbend area for three to four months starting in November. Unfortunately, with this increase in population came an increase in power line strikes. The swans were electrocuted when they flew into the nearby high-voltage power lines which they were unable to detect.



Charlie Deutsch, Corps. of Engineers, speaks to the media

Trumpeter Swan photos by
Eric Bloemker



Swan Diverter day photos
by Adele Moore

Ameren's Environmental Services contracted with a company in Pennsylvania to install bright yellow, corkscrew swan diverters on the high power lines via a helicopter. It was interesting to watch as the helicopter pilot hovered very, very close to the wires, while a person sitting on a frame underneath and to the side of the helicopter leaned over to attach the diverters. The process looked a little like a thrill ride, but nothing I would want to try!

Trumpeters were almost wiped out at the turn of the 20th century by hunters in search of meat and feathers. TreeHouse Trumpeter Swan admissions generally tend toward lead poisoning cases.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife records show that 10% of the local visiting swans were injured or killed.

Red the Hawk

Letter and photos sent to TreeHouse by David and Terry Woolsey

“David and I (Terry) found this Red-Tailed Hawk February 16, 2010 at Beltrees and Lockhaven Roads. It was injured, had a bloody head and couldn't fly. Its mate was in the tree top above having a fit!

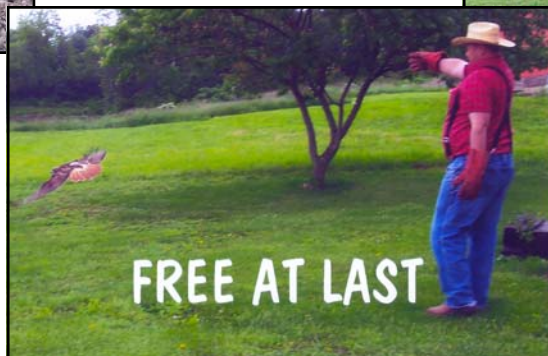
We called Pam at TreeHouse and she said we could bring the hawk in.

Thanks to all at TreeHouse they got our hawk fit and healthy and three months later we were able to pick the red tail up to release it. May 15, 2010 we released (Red) back in the same spot to be free!

Some may not believe but (Red) found its mate within a few minutes. We have seen both hawks twice since then.

Thanks TreeHouse for your wonderful acts of kindness to our wild ones so our children can enjoy our wildlife in years to come.

Special thanks to Pam for your help! Congratulations on your new home.”



Cooper's Hawks

Text and photos by Ron Chaput

"This morning this Cooper's Hawk was sitting on my sister's fence. At first I didn't see it until she mentioned it. When I left I scared it by walking past it and then you could see that it was hurt and couldn't fly.

I went home and my sister called to tell me that it was on the fence again. This time I brought my camera along. Here is some of the pictures.



To make it short, she came with a neighbor that works with "Treehouse Wildlife Center" and captured it. So now it is on it's way to the Center."

Editor's Note: The Cooper's Hawk was successfully released where it was found.



After I got home I e-mailed Cheryl Pride to ask her if she knew the phone number of "Treehouse Wildlife Center".



Close Encounters of the Wild Kind

Sherry Droste,
Environmental Education

In addition to the many wonderful outreach programs that Pam presents, TreeHouse is now up and running with the option for on-site education programs. These opportunities provide another venue for educating the public about native wildlife and wildlife rehabilitation, preservation of natural habitat; and the environmental impact that our choices have on the health of our planet and its creatures.

The education portion of our building is evolving into a beautiful facility for teaching about The Great Outdoors. It is spacious, bright and cheerful. The rustic, post-and-beam design of the room is perfectly in keeping with the feel of a nature center.

Our first season of full-time education programs has been blessed by amazing weather, enthusiastic participants and the assistance of an incredibly dedicated group of volunteers. Can't wait to see what interesting opportunities lie ahead for the winter and spring seasons. Come on out and join us!



Environmental Education Center at TreeHouse

During Open House kids could participated in crafts,
or give voice to woodland critters in the antique puppet show theatre.

Photos by Adele Moore



TreeHouse entrance on Vulture Day

Two of our permanent resident vultures, Edgar and Icabod, wowed the crowd with their antics (including an actual escape — and eventual capture!).



Kids loved making vulture vomit

Many adults commented about how much they learned about vultures and the important role they play in keeping the world a cleaner and healthier place.

Vulture Appreciation Day

Sherry Droste,
Photos by Adele Moore

On-site education programming kicked off in September with a public Vulture Appreciation Day event.



Edgar and Icabod

Kids went home with new vulture friends, fashioned from toilet paper tubes; vulture masks; and bags of colorful Vulture Vomit, which they proudly created.



As the Stomach Turns
A science lesson about stomach acid

A **Life Skills class from Illini Middle School**, in the Jersey CUSD #100 district, also visited in September, as part of a unit about community service and the spirit of volunteerism.



They have adopted the fence along Green Acres

Road and spent the morning planting an assortment of spring and summer perennials and hardy mums. It has greatly enhanced the appearance of our entrance already – and will look beautiful next year!



A small, but mighty, crowd participated in a storytelling event on October 8. The evening was filled with **“Monsters, Ogres and Dragons”** and was facilitated by internationally-renowned storyteller, Bobby Norfolk, who hails from St. Louis. He enchanted both children and adults alike. That event was generously sponsored by **Cornerstone Bank**, as a benefit for our new education program.

Two super groups of our education volunteers assisted with two school programs in October. The first was held at **Lovejoy Elementary (Alton)**, as part of a family science night. Pam brought several owls, which were fascinating to the children, and we provided the materials to make cute bat masks and bat finger puppets. The principal shared that many of the masks returned to school the next day.....along with a great amount of enthusiasm for having seen real birds and (preserved) bats!

The second school program was held, on-site, for the **21st Century after-school program**. Sixty students from **Alton Middle School** had a chance to compete with a variety of animal champions in outdoor games; try a nature scavenger hunt; and, of course, see several live raptors and learn about their relationship to TreeHouse.

In early November, twelve children from the **Jersey County Head Start** program visited and enjoyed a hike, a wildlife puppet show and a picnic lunch. We collected lots of natural objects (acorn caps, flower petals, colorful and crunchy leaves, fuzzy seed pods, corn kernels, etc.), and the kids turned them into beautiful fall window collages to hang at their preschool.



Vernon LeClair

Photography Workshop — Fifteen adults, led by professional photographer and naturalist, Vernon LeClaire, spent an October weekend honing their photography skills. Through the use of a wealth of personal slides and photos, Mr. LeClaire instructed the group about a variety of photographic techniques and applications, which could be adapted for use with both manual and digital cameras. Saturday morning was spent in the field at the Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge in Brussels, IL. Class members had an opportunity to shoot pictures in a wonderful natural setting – and the weather was perfectly cooperative! Upon their return to TreeHouse, the group displayed and critiqued their photos collectively. The biggest perk was a chance to take up close and personal photos of several of

our permanent resident raptors, who dropped by with Pam for a visit. There was a wealth of wonderful photos taken by the group – many of which will soon be displayed in collage form in our education center. Additionally, Vernon has already consented to facilitating a spring workshop, which will focus on the woodland ephemeral wildflowers. Watch for more information.

“Nature Nuts” is a new addition to our education list. This program is designed for Little People, ages 3 through 5, who attend a session accompanied by a parent or other adult. This offering that meets on the third Tuesday of each month, for a 1.5-hour morning or afternoon session. The \$5.00 registration fee includes a natural history lesson and short outdoor activity (yes, we will go out even in the cold!), along with a thematic take-home craft, a story and a snack. We initiated this program in October with a “Creepy Crawly Critters” focus. We made all kinds of interesting discoveries outside and made fun spider magnets using our handprints. We even ate spiders made from marshmallows, pretzels and carrots. In November, the theme was “Turkey Trottin’!” We looked for clues and evidence of wild turkeys in the woods at TreeHouse, made a colorful turkey decoration and read about ten, very fat turkeys! December’s emphasis will be on evergreen trees and will be based around the beautiful children’s story, “A Wish to Be a Christmas Tree.” Call for a reservation (required).



SS Peter and Paul Scout Troop #64

In early September, 15 scout troop members and parents, from Saints Peter and Paul in Alton, donated a lot of muscle power at our Dow site, clearing a mountain of honeysuckle at the west end of our very overgrown pond.

They cut and chopped and sawed and dragged and piled very dense honeysuckle for two solid hours!



By dark, they had opened up the entire end of the pond and donated a cumulative total of 30 man hours to the cause. Troop leader, Steve Bollini, was extremely proud of his middle and high school boy scouts and was amazed at how much they accomplished in a short time.

The troop has adopted the pond and is committed to winning the honeysuckle war. Thanks so much, Troop 64!

FFA Forestry Contest

On October 7, 65 Future Farmers of America (FFA) students from eight area high schools visited TreeHouse and participated in the Regional Forestry contest, which was hosted by Mr. Jeff Goetten and Mrs. Maggie McCalla, FFA sponsors at Jersey Community High School.



Jersey County High School FFA Team

Photo by Heather Goetten

FFA forestry teams used the 4.5-acre woodland at our Dow facility to compete in several different events, including: tree identification, forestry tool identification, timber field measurements and timber “cruising” for timber stand management. Each participant was required to complete a written evaluation as well.

The weather was perfect; our site received rave reviews from the students and their respective sponsors; and our very own Jersey County team took home the first place trophy. We look forward to having them join us again next fall!

ADOPTIONS

Bradley Doubet adopted an orphaned Screech-Owl
Clara Doubet adopted an orphaned Great Horned Owl
Clarence & Sue Garvin adopted Chuckles the Red Fox
South Roxana Elementary School adopted Spuds the Bald Eagle
Kurt Werder adopted an orphaned possum and Lucy the Kestrel

Kari Senica, Snow Goose
American Water — CRS Team adopted an orphan Fox Squirrel,
Opossum, and Mocha the Short-eared Owl

THANK YOU

Renfro Elementary School, Collinsville
Queen of Peace School, Belleville
Granite City High School Science Club
Michele Kasten — Chris Farmer
Conoco Phillips, Wood River Refinery
Cornerstone Bank
Lloyd Wilson, Bluebirds
Gene Sands, Heartland Prairie
Vernon LeClaire
Build-A-Bear Workshop
Riverbend Wild Bird Supply
Eric Bloemker — Steve Johnson
Jersey County High School —
Ag. Construction Classes
Cope Plastics — Mark Boeck

Check out
**HAPPY TAILS
THRIFT SHOP
IN
EDWARDSVILLE**



by Dakota Griesemer, age 15

IN MEMORY OF

Matt Beatty
Robert Bull
Dorothy Doerr
Jeff Keffer
William (Bill) Rogers
Norma Wagner



Adele Moore presents Marti Stone with her 10 year volunteer award



Volunteer coordinator, Sherry Droste presented Shirley McCann the "Queen of Clean" award. Shirley keeps everything spotless (despite groups of pre-schoolers and construction crews running in and out all day).



Owlbert gets "blessed"

Photo by Timothy K. Hamilton

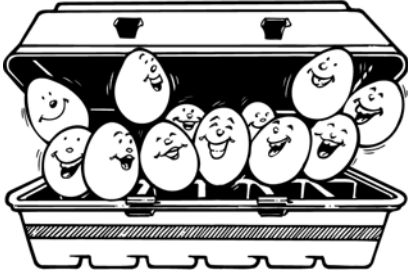
First Volunteer Meeting at Dow



Best wishes to Andrea Crabtree, who co-owned Riverbend Wild Bird Supply in Alton, volunteered at Wild Bird Rehab in St. Louis, and served as Director of TreeHouse for many years, as she will soon be moving out of state.



VOLUNTEER GOOD EGG AWARD GOES TO THE CONSTRUCTION CREW



Mel McCann, Phill Challandes, Jim & Tom Droste, Lynn Schreiber, Adele Moore, Penny, Dave & John Sarandis, Sherri & Stan Medley, Gary Surgeon, Chris Farmer, Tom Foster, Randy Greding, Charlie Deutsch, Jack Champlin, Sharon Gwillim, Joe Motley, Cy Bunting, George Hobbs



**Whether it's construction inside the building or out, our
Construction Crew gets the job done**

Photos by Sharon Gwillim and Sherri Medley

29th Annual Open House (and the first one at Dow)

Kids were asked to draw
their favorite animal.
Drawings shown
throughout the
newsletter are some of
our volunteer's favorites.



The ever popular straw pile



by Emmy Stamper, age 3



Board Meeting?



Open House activities included visitors
enjoying lunch, buying raffle tickets and
volunteers working



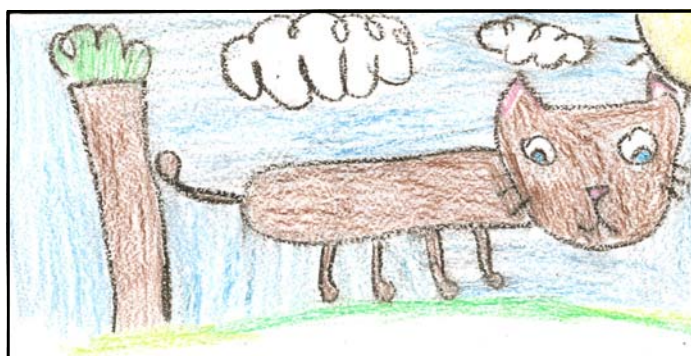
by Zoe Croxford, age 8



Centennial Road provided some great music!



Smokey Bear
made an appearance



by Sierra, age 7



Puppet Theatre provided
quality entertainment



**We would like to thank
the following people
and businesses who
helped to make our
Open House a success!**

by Lacie Witt, age 9

TreeHouse Staff and Volunteers

**Perky Perkins
Sally Joosten
Nancy Hilton
Itchy Brothers
John Di Santi
Mike & Danne Rhaesa
Mel & Shirley McCann
Red Lobster
Hawthorne Animal Hospital
Wild Birds Unlimited
Phone Master (Barbara & Jeff Davis)
Sherry & Jim Droste Family
Subway
Jim Moore
Micky Rudolph
Missy Rung-Blue
Pam Lippert
Melisa Bellio
Kathy DiPaolo
Katie McCarty
Penny Moon
Tara Winfree
Kathy Rudolph
Barbara Bickmore
Applebee's
Centennial Road**



by Myles Croxford, age 6



by Cameron, age 10

Company Gift Matching

Many companies offer Charity gift matching programs. While Boeing/McDonnell-Douglas has had a company matching program for years, this marks the start of allowing TreeHouse Wildlife Center to benefit doubly for your contributions.

The Boeing Gift Matching program is now supporting wildlife organizations. Employees can have Boeing match their contributions dollar-for-dollar, and retiree's donations are at 50% matching. To qualify, send TreeHouse your contribution. Then notify Boeing using the on-line submission (My Boeing >> Total Access >> My Community Giving). The minimum for matching is \$100 with an annual limit of \$6000 for all your requested matching. Separately, you can direct your Employee Community Fund (ECF) donations to TreeHouse, as well.

Wherever you work, please check whether your company will match your contribution. Programs like these make your dollars go even further to benefit TreeHouse Wildlife Center. Thank you.

Wish List

Paper towels
33-gal. trash bags
Laundry detergent
Dryer sheets
Dry dog and cat food
Canned cat food with liver
Scotch-brite sponges (combined
sponge and rubber)
Welding and gardening gloves
Fishing nets with handles (all sizes)
Garden tools
Plastic animal kennels (all sizes)
6',8',10' & 12' step ladders
Tools (all kinds)
Lap top
2 microwave ovens
Chainsaw
Recycle bins
Garden hoses

If you have an animal in need of
rehabilitation please continue to use
the Brighton phone number
until further notice
(618) 372-8092 — Brighton

If you have a few hours a week to
spare, and you would like to
become a volunteer, or you would like
to book a program,
please contact Sherry at
(618) 466-2990 — Dow
or through our website at
www.treehousewildlifecenter.com
(The only requirement is that you are
at least 16 years of age,
unless accompanied by an adult)

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

TreeHouse Joins GoodSearch.com



What if TreeHouse Wildlife Center earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

And if you download the GoodSearch – TreeHouse Wildlife Center toolbar, our cause will earn money every time you shop and search online - even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first!

Add the Treehouse Wildlife Center toolbar at

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/treehouse-wildlife-center>

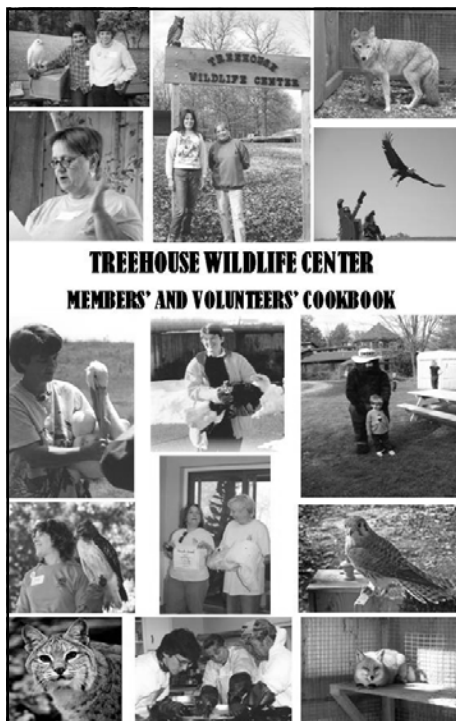
Here's the web site **<http://www.goodsearch.com>**. You can also read about GoodSearch in the NY Times, Oprah Magazine, CNN, ABC News and the Wall Street Journal.

DOWNLOAD THE GOODSEARCH TOOLBAR

It's easy to earn money for TreeHouse when you have our toolbar installed in your browser.

GoodSearch has toolbars for IE 6 and 7 and search box plugins for Firefox, IE7 and Safari.

"I just love the GoodShop Toolbar. It's there, but I only really notice it when I'm shopping online because it briefly appears and tells me how much my purchase will earn for TreeHouse Wildlife Center"- Penny Moon



Hoo Cooks for You?

A cookbook designed by friends, family
and members of TreeHouse Wildlife Center
with quick and easy, tried and true recipes
plus

a photo gallery featuring some of the critters
who have shared their lives with ours
over the past 30+ years.

ORDER FORM

Please mail this form and your check to:

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

Telephone: 618.466.2990
Web site: treehousewildlifecenter.com
EMail: treehousewildlifecenter@gmail.com

Name _____

Organization/Business _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Please notify me when the cookbooks have arrived from the publisher,
so that I may pick mine up, or make arrangements for delivery.

___ I would like to pre-order (#) ___ number of cookbooks at \$15 each

Total Order _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____ .00

Enclosed is my check/money order payable to: **TreeHouse, for the full
amount of my order.** My check is my receipt for my purchase.

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

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