

TreeHouse Droppings



In this issue:

Eagles, Trumpeter Swans, Coyotes, Bobcats, Turtles, Osprey, Environment Education, Volunteer and Permanent Resident Spotlight, Spring Orphans, Nature Nuts, Interns, Wildlife releases, Construction, Open House, Mouse Races, Exchange Students, TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers, Acknowledgements

30+ years of giving back to the wild

Board of Directors

Eric Bloemker, President
Charlie Deutsch, Vice-President
Rod Davis, Secretary
Kathy Border, Treasurer
Adele Moore, Marcie Nagle
Sharon Gwillim, Jennifer Yordy
Rachael Heaton, Amanda Dixon

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)
Libby McGinley*
(Office manager)
Rachael Heaton*
(Intern & Ass't Ed Director)
Amanda Dixon*
(Weekend Intern & Vet Tech)
Jennifer Yordy*
(Intern coordinator &
TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers)

TreeHouse Wildlife Center employs
**one full-time, and
*four part-time staff members.
All other staff are volunteers.

Active Volunteers

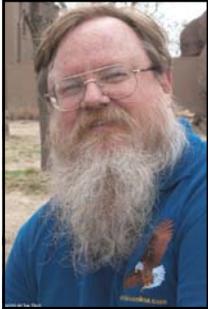
Judy & Jack Neiman,
Deana Browne, Libby McGinley
Melvin & Shirley McCann,
Marti Stone, Sue Potter,
Phil Challandes, Adele Moore,
Sherri Medley, Dr. Paul Myer,
Hannah Rothe, Sharon Gwillim,
Granite City High School —
Science Club, Kathy & Alex Conley,
Pam & Brittany Deppe,
Samantha Seamon, Elaine Perkins,
Kathy Border, Gary Surgeon,
Bill Crawford, Marcie Nagle,
Abigail & Hanna Mosbacher,
Mitch Cannell, Katie Stewart,
Connie Yordy, Kathey Tidwell
Kim Phillips, Bob Ruland,
Caleb Muenstermann,
Sandi Konopelski, Rod Davis,
Marla and Jerry Sanders,
Georgia VanWinkle, Tom Foster,
Ann Robertson, Brad Blumenstock,
Annalise McCann, Eric Bloemker,
Jennifer Koontz, Penny Moon

Photo Credits

Dillan Laaker
Jennifer Yordy
Rachael Heaton
Marla Sanders
Amanda Dixon
Adele Moore
Eric Bloemker

Social Network

Glenda Eaton, Web Master
Missy Rung Blue, Facebook

PRESIDENT'S AERIE by Eric Bloemker

Thank you all! TreeHouse has made considerable progress this year. We have officially closed down the Brighton facility, and our Dow facility is ready for the work to be continued long into the future.

If you haven't been out to TreeHouse recently, please do come by for a visit. The place keeps growing and changing. I'm constantly amazed at the progress on my trips. Lots of volunteers and staff are keeping the place top tier. That comes from many hours of hard work and generous donations from our members and supporters.

The recent government shutdown did not slow us down. We receive no funding from the federal, state, or local governments. We continue on your generosity, and I can never say thanks enough for your kind support. One lap around the "small" rehab flight cage shows the amazing support we received. Slats with names routed will last a long, long time as our thanks for your support.

The large flight cage (see cover photo) got a boost in construction funds from Ameren Illinois. Their help made it possible for us to complete construction this year. That was the last big step in closing the old facility – a big savings in total operating costs, too. While Ameren and The Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation were able to write big checks, we never would have been able to meet the total costs without the smaller donations adding up to make the project a go, and we are not done yet!

Construction will continue as funding is available. Waterfowl pens, a storage and mouse house, the avian ward, and our water ecosystem will make the facility more friendly for everyone. We will continue to need your support through the years, and based on your past contributions, I'm hoping for a bright future.

Come on out some weekend to see the facility, or share us with your friends on one lovely drive up the Great River Road. Eagle season is fast approaching, and we'll be open on the weekends to host guests around most of the facility. Or just come on out to do a little early Christmas shopping in our Gift Shop. Consider buying a membership for someone who has everything.

continued

continued

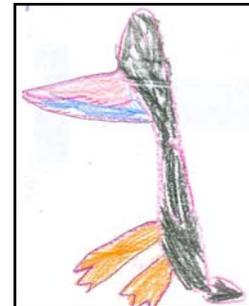
New volunteers are always welcome. All we ask for is a small commitment of time. The application is on-line at <http://TreeHouseWildlifeCenter.com/> — we do ask younger volunteers to be accompanied by parent or guardian. There are jobs for everyone, whether you might enjoy handling the birds or feeding and food preparation. Workshop volunteers also need to be fed now and then. Cleaning, maintenance, and construction is on-going as well. Whatever your talents and goals, we can help those really wanting to help the injured and orphaned wildlife.

Look for other TreeHouse activities for all ages. Join us on Facebook to keep up-to-date with events, and please do invite and share our events with your friends and co-workers.

As part of the children's activities at open house we ask them to draw their favorite animal at TreeHouse. Despite receiving some giraffe and lion drawings, we enjoy looking at the pictures and voting on the best in each age group. Displayed throughout the newsletters are this year's winners.



Turkey Vulture by Lilly, age 7



Turkey Vulture by Kelsey, age 6



Bobcat by Megan, age 14



Wild bird by Finnley, age 5

Rehab Ramblings by Pam Lippert

In the Riverbend area, we tend to think of bald eagles only residing here during the winter months, but the truth is we have quite a few local nests and therefore some year-round residents. While last winter at TreeHouse no eagles were admitted, this past spring/summer was different. .

During the flooding in May, I got a call from conservation police officer (CPO) Greg Weishaupt about an eagle down in Calhoun County between Mozier and Hamburg. He and his son Andrew attempted to capture it when it went into the water and swam out to a brushy area. He tried wading out to catch it, but the water was too high.

The next day I met them at the site, and he and I cruised around in a johnboat to search while Andrew scanned the brush on the bank, to no avail. CPO Weishaupt could tell the previous day that it had a wing injury, so it had to be somewhere close by, but where? He was leaving to go out of town for a few days, so I left him my number to give to the sheriff's department and the local coffee shop down the road.

Later on in the week I got a call about it again just before it got dark, and then again around noon on Mother's Day. I made the drive to Kampsville, took the detours through town, and headed to the site. The eagle was supposed to be in a field near a lone cottonwood tree, according to the caller, who was no longer in the area. I drove back and forth several times and did not see it anywhere, so I parked and started walking. I walked the whole perimeter of the field searching the brush and listening for signs of movement, or to see if the crows or jays would tell me where he was. I checked the deep ditch in the middle of this field that looked like a great hiding place, I checked along the edge of the bluff — nothing. Finally, as I walked dejectedly back to the van, I scanned the brush at the edge of the bluff one more time, and I spotted him peeking his dirty white head out of the brush. I ran toward him, not taking my eyes off him. When I got close he retreated into the bush honeysuckle, but I was able to grab him. Victory!

Not quite—his wing had obviously been broken close to the elbow joint, which rendered him flightless. He presently is living at Dow, and it's not known yet where he will end up. This adult eagle is small in size and was probably the male of one of the local nests.

continued

continued

In June I received a call from an unincorporated area of Cahokia/Centerville about a very large bird thought to be an eagle on the ground. It was in an area where I had heard stories about a nest. I called Sandi Konopelski, a licensed rehabber in St. Clair County who, in addition to doing rehab, does rescues for us, and she agreed to pick up the bird. Meanwhile, I set out to pick up a couple birds in the Litchfield area. When I got back, I had 2 more messages about the downed bird. Sandi had made her way to the area while the bird was making its way around the neighborhood, and she came back empty handed. I gave Sandi the last message and she was finally able to track it down – a huge first-year female bald eagle. I took the bird to Hawthorne Animal Hospital in Glen Carbon the next day where it had x-rays and blood work, which didn't show anything except possible muscle trauma. The huge, gangly juvenile bird spent the next few months in the flight cage at Brighton (the one at Dow was still under construction) perfecting her flight, and she was re-released back near the nest site in the fall.

Rehab Ramblings continued

Sandi releasing a bald eagle
in St. Clair County

TreeHouse Interns Class of 2013



Left to right: Rachael Heaton from Collinsville—an SIUE graduate; Jennifer Yordy from Belleville—a Vanderbilt University graduate; Jenni Filman from Canada—a student at the University of Guelph; Dillan Laaker from Godfrey—a Vanderbilt student; Katie Stewart from Ohio—a Principia College graduate, and Casey Morin from Carlinville—a McKendree University graduate.



Rachael Woodley from Scotland, student at University of Aberdeen



Stephanie Woods from Alabama, an Auburn University student



Rebecca "Becca" Symons from Michigan, graduated from Mars Hill College in North Carolina



Mackenzie Livingston from Ohio, graduated from Ball State University in Indiana



Gale Loescher from Connecticut, graduated from the University of New England



Boxcar Bobcats Arrive at TreeHouse



Bobcats in November

On June 19 TreeHouse received a special delivery package of two adorable bobcat kittens from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Wildlife Ward (see cover photo). Earlier in the spring, students at the college had admitted the two bobcat kittens, which had been discovered in a boxcar located south of Champaign-Urbana. The boxcar had originated in Louisiana, with stops in

Tennessee and Kentucky, so they didn't know where the kittens were born. The students bottle-fed the kittens, and due to the fact that they did not have outdoor facilities available for them, they asked if we could take them.

Because they are in rehabilitation and we anticipate releasing them in the spring, it's vital that human contact be kept to a minimum. We already had the bobcat cage set up for rehab from Belle and Bobbie, the bobcats from the year before, so all we had to do was re-activate the trail cam and watch the fun. Playing together like housecats, these kittens have a great time together as they learn and grow.

Volunteer Spotlight: Mel McCann by Amanda Dixon

As TreeHouse has grown over the years, many volunteers have come and gone, but some just cannot seem to get enough of the rehabilitation world and have stuck around for quite some time. One of these familiar faces is that of the one and only Mel McCann, the resident handyman and jack-of-all-trades.

Mel has been a TreeHouse volunteer for about eighteen years and started his volunteer work somewhat on a whim. "I was out riding bikes on a bike trail, and I had finished the thirty mile one. I came back by TreeHouse, where I had known a couple of the individuals who were volunteering there at the time. They had been after me for some time to come out, so after I had finished with the ride, I stopped by and finally agreed to do some volunteer work. They said it was about time."

continued

continued

He started out working on Wednesday nights animal care by cleaning cages and preparing food for both the rehabilitation patients and permanent residents. Eventually his duties grew, and he became the go-to guy for just about anything. Mel can be found hanging around TreeHouse many days during the week either in the education room where he greets visitors, downstairs in the rehabilitation area doing maintenance work, or outside by the cages cutting lumber and making repairs.

Mel
“supervising”
an intern
cage
construction
project



What has kept Mel around for all of these years? “Well, I’m retired and there’s always plenty of stuff to be done around TreeHouse. Plus, I like working with the public and being around the animals.” Some of his favorite animals include the bald eagles, which are also his favorite to release after rehabilitation, and Cappuccino, a rather vocal permanent resident barn owl who sadly passed away last year. Cappuccino was known for his signature use of the distinct barn owl scream, which he was particularly fond of doing when he was taken out in public.



Mel is also a very big supporter of the renewed internship program out at Dow. This past summer, TreeHouse hosted a number of both local and out-of-state interns and the added help they brought along was well received. “I am very happy to have the interns around. They make the jobs much easier for everyone.” To help further support the interns, Mel began making beautiful and unique decorative plate flowers that are sold in the TreeHouse gift shop. The proceeds from these flowers are put in a fund for the interns to use.

With having spent so many hours at TreeHouse with many more to come, Mel is ecstatic to see how far along the facility has come over time and hopes it continues to grow. “I hope that we can always have enough people to care for the birds and other animals, and I would like to be able to see us support ourselves one day,” he said, since TreeHouse relies heavily on donations given by the public.

Needless to say, TreeHouse’s new facility would not be the same without Mel. He’s put in a lot of time and effort to help make the Dow site the best it can be for the animals it receives; for that, he deserves a great big thank you from us all, so the next time you find yourself out at TreeHouse, come inside for a warm welcome and the chance to meet this most valued member of the volunteer staff.

Meet Owlbert by Jennifer Yordy

Owlbert the great horned owl was born in 1996, and he has lived at TreeHouse since he was just a couple of months old. Owlbert was found on the ground separated from his parents by a well-intentioned individual who decided to rescue and raise the young owl. He fed the bird ground up steak, but after a while Owlbert's wing started to droop. The man thought that the owl was injured and called the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for advice on how to treat the injury. When DNR informed him that it was illegal for private individuals to keep birds of prey and gave him TreeHouse's phone number, the man brought Owlbert to us.



When Owlbert was examined upon his admission to TreeHouse his wings were drooping, but there was no sign of any injury. It was soon discovered that his drooping wings were the result of problems with his bone development due to nutrient deficiencies. Most people know that birds of prey eat meat, but many do not realize that a diet consisting only of *meat*, that is, the muscle of an animal, will not provide the proper nutrition for most carnivores, either avian or mammalian. Owls eat their prey whole, so they get many of their minerals and vitamins from the bones and stomach contents of their herbivorous prey. Eating only muscle meat can cause metabolic bone diseases like Ricketts, and during the period of rapid growth early in a chick's development, serious problems can arise after only a few days of improper nutrition.

On top of the Ricketts that Owlbert had developed, it quickly became apparent that he was human-imprinted. The malformed bones in his wings meant that he would never fly and could not be released, but even if this were not the case a human-imprinted bird cannot be released, because it will not know how to interact with other members of its own species and may become a pest to humans. On the flip side, human imprints often make good education animals, since they are generally more comfortable around humans than naturally imprinted birds are. So, TreeHouse decided to give Owlbert a shot at becoming one of our education ambassadors.

Seventeen years later, Owlbert has been a memorable addition to countless outreach programs, booths, and events. Although his drooping wings give him a profile that is not quite as majestic as that of many of his "colleagues," they provide a powerful reminder of just why it is so important for injured and orphaned wildlife to be handed over to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Owlbert was lucky that TreeHouse had an open spot for a permanent resident great horned owl and to find a home here, but there are a lot of non-releasable great horned owls out there, and some are not as fortunate as Owlbert.

TreeHouse Coyotes: Zuni & Trickster by Jennifer Yordy

The seventh graders at Blessed Sacrament School in Belleville have been learning about wildlife conservation in a unique way this year. At the beginning of the year, Blessed Sacrament science teacher and TreeHouse volunteer Connie Yordy presented the students with a real-life problem and challenged them to find a solution. TreeHouse wanted to change the diet of its resident coyotes from commercial dog food to a chow specifically formulated to meet the unique nutritional needs of wild canids like coyotes. This proposed diet change required funding, since the coyotes' food previously had been supplied primarily by donation.

When the seventh graders saw photos of Trickster and Zuni, TreeHouse's resident coyotes, and learned of the dilemma they faced, they immediately fell in love. Although many people hate and fear coyotes, at TreeHouse we have found that they are incredibly charismatic ambassadors for environmental education. Kids, in particular, seem to bond with the coyotes instantaneously. Dog-like enough to be familiar and easy to identify with, coyotes are also fundamentally, conspicuously wild. They are well-known—both praised and persecuted—for their cunning and adaptability. Their raucous yapping and



Zuni & Trickster

howling might send chills down the spine of someone unfamiliar with coyote vocalizations, as just two or three individuals can easily sound like a pack of ten. To anyone who has already lost their heart to coyotes, the sound is spine-tingling for another reason—a coyote's howl is one of the most joyfully wild sounds that nature provides.

Blessed Sacrament's seventh graders have only heard the coyotes howl on video so far, but in the spring semester their project will bring them to TreeHouse to meet Trickster and Zuni in person. The project is a multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary one, through which the students learn concepts and develop skills in subjects ranging from math and animal nutrition to art and engineering, leadership and communication. Under the guidance of homeroom teacher Peggy Butler, the class has "adopted" Trickster and Zuni, and in addition to raising money to supply the food for their new diet, they will be designing and supplying enrichment toys for the coyotes.

continued

continued

They are learning about the life history of coyotes, the role of wildlife rehabilitation in conservation, and many aspects of captive wildlife management.

Education is another aspect of the project—not just for this seventh grade class, but for other students as well. The kids will be visiting other classes at their school to share what they have learned, educating their peers about Illinois wildlife. They also hope to raise enough money to send a TreeHouse Wildlife Assembly to another school in their community that would be unable to afford to pay for one. The class has already raised around \$400, with more fundraisers planned.

Currently, the class is turning in proposals for enrichment items. TreeHouse staff will review the proposals to identify any potential safety issues or other problems, and then the kids will work with their art teacher, Renee Comerford, to design and construct the approved items. In the spring, they will take a field trip to TreeHouse, where they will have the opportunity to see Trickster and Zuni receive one of their enrichment toys.



Blessed Sacrament 7th graders

This project is the best kind of collaboration between TreeHouse and the community. TreeHouse has gained a much-needed sponsor as well as sixteen dedicated young supporters and ambassadors of our mission. The kids themselves have arguably gained much more. They've been given a unique opportunity to solve a real problem through scientific problem-solving, community organizing, and innovation. Most importantly, they have made a real connection with wild nature. They have formed a bond of empathy with an animal that they might otherwise have grown up fearing. Fostering this kind of connection is precisely the reason TreeHouse exists. Once a person has worked to help a wild animal in need, either by rescuing a squirrel that has been hit by a car or by raising money to provide nutritious food for a coyote, that person will find it much more difficult to dismiss the problems of the natural world.

Stephanie Woods, Intern

When you are applying for an internship, job, or a volunteer position they always provide you with a description of what you should expect. What tasks you will be responsible for, what you should wear, and what you will be doing. And TreeHouse also included one when I was looking for possible internships. Most of the descriptions are going to be pretty similar when it is involving wildlife: be prepared to work in all types of weather conditions, general cleaning of animal enclosures, preparation and feeding of diets—basically all saying that you are going to get very comfortable with messy situations. But there is no description that is going to be able to tell you exactly what is going to happen. There were many moments this summer when I told my fellow intern, Rachel, this is not what I was expecting. And that is what made this internship such a memorable experience.



If you asked me what was one the hardest things I had to do this summer you probably wouldn't expect me to say it was when we had to catch squirrels. Why in the world were we trying to do it in the first place? These gray squirrels were ready for release and needed to be transported to their new home, so it was up to the interns to catch them. Thankfully, we were able to catch them all, but not until I had learned how hard it actually is to catch those little gray speedsters. One Sunday after a peaceful morning, we found out that the coyote pups had managed to pull back their fencing and get themselves stuck in between the double wiring of their enclosure; luckily, they got out all by themselves, but not until we had spent a very stressful hour trying to persuade them out! And afterwards, someone brought in a river otter. TreeHouse doesn't get otters in very often, so it was very exciting to see one. Though I did soon learn that otters have a shriek that could rival a banshee. He was soon relocated to a river nearby, much to the relief of our aching ears.



Whether we were giving tours to visitors, trying to avoid being pooped on, or dashing after a squirrel that had gotten loose, I learned that life with animals is not an easy field to work in. But that is the real adventure when working with wildlife. There are so many new things to learn from the people and the animals. It isn't predictable, clean, or even fun all the time. Though I think it is one of the most rewarding things you can do with your life, and I couldn't have thought of a better way to spend my summer.

Rehab Ramblings *continued*



The week of open house we received a call from Granite City about a very large bird, not as big as an eagle, down on the ground in a residential area. The callers looked it up online and thought it was a Kite (raptor). I was sure it wasn't a Kite because I wouldn't describe them as big, but figured it was something unusual. We called Judy Neiman (Collinsville area pick-up and volunteer). She went out and picked up the bird and solved this mystery. It was an osprey, and from the plumage appears to be a juvenile. Unfortunately, it has a separation in its right shoulder which is not fixable. We are busy trying to keep enough whole fish to satisfy it. In captivity the main problem usually is getting them to eat. Our problem is just giving him what he wants. Unlike other fish-eating raptors like eagles, osprey eat exclusively fish in the wild, sometimes plunging below the surface to grab a fish.

Japanese Students Visit TreeHouse by Connie Yordy



Katie and Jennifer prepare the students for a tour of the center

Somewhere in Kyoto, Japan, there are children wearing t-shirts with the TreeHouse Wildlife Center logo on them. And, undoubtedly, they are showing pictures of Einstein and Trickster, Hope, Chuckles and the rest of the animals at TreeHouse, and telling their friends and family what they learned about rehabilitating wildlife in Illinois.

continued

continued

I have been blessed for almost ten years to be a part of a wonderful program called Discover America. The program started when I and another teacher from Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School in Belleville were invited by Sister Beatrice Tanaka to spend two weeks in Kyoto, Japan, at her school, Notre Dame Elementary. Our mission was to learn about education in Japan and to be a part of a program in which families from Queen of Peace and Blessed Sacrament in Belleville would welcome Japanese children into their homes. While the program is designed to give the students the opportunity to experience life in the United States, the primary goal of the program is to make a connection between the Japanese children and the people they meet in Illinois.

Sister Beatrice understands how important it is for children, especially those growing up in the city, to make connections with nature and animals. Last year, Sister Beatrice Tanaka received an award from the Japanese government that is comparable to the United States' Medal of Freedom. She was received into the royal court of the Emperor and Empress of Japan. In addition to the Discover America program, Sister Beatrice was honored for teaching her students "respect for the natural environment."

Sister Beatrice loves animals. And so, in July of 2013, she brought 24 of her students to TreeHouse. "It was," said Sister Beatrice, "a unique experience that they will never forget."



When the students and their teachers, Katsuya Endo and Yoshiko Nishimura arrived at TreeHouse—a bit late because the bus they were traveling in was too heavy to cross the bridge in Elsau—they were treated first to a tour of the facility. They were enthralled. They snapped pictures, chattered excitedly to their friends, and asked questions through their interpreter. After the tour, they gathered in the education room. I read "The Bird with no Name" to

them, and Rachael brought Einstein out to demonstrate all she has learned since the book was written.

The children then gathered outside to witness, first-hand, what TreeHouse is all about. Jennifer explained our mission and released two kestrels. As the birds were returned to their wild homes, no words were needed. The children understood.

Finally, the children visited the gift shop. Every child purchased something to commemorate their visit to TreeHouse. When they were told that some of the money they were spending would help take care of the animals, many declined to take their change. "For animals," they said in English. The connection that is so important to Sister Beatrice had been made.

Nature Nuts

Nature Nuts: A nature education program for preschoolers By offering a variety of outdoor activities and allowing children to explore the natural world with a hands-on approach, we are not only heightening their senses but helping to create awareness.

It was a rainy and cold day at TreeHouse Wildlife Center. Most of the animals stayed cozy and dry inside their shelters while a few others decided to take the time for a cool shower. Outside everything was quiet, but inside was a different picture! Children were inside learning about the wonders of snow as well as meeting some of the animals at TreeHouse. Today was Nature Nuts day. Nature Nuts is a monthly program for children ages 3-5 that takes place every third Tuesday or on request for groups. Every month has a theme and for November the theme was snow! They started off sitting at three tables and making snow globes from mason jars to take home. They used whatever color of glitter that they wanted to simulate snow in their snow globes! There was golden snow, blue snow, and even purple snow. When they were finished, the children loved shaking their snow globes and watching the glitter settle over the little pine tree figurine that each of them had in their globes.

Of course, what would a snow themed day be without snow to play with? Since there was no snow outside, we settled for making artificial snow from baking soda and hair conditioner. Needless to say, the snow smelled very nice. The children loved making snow balls, snowmen, or even just feeling the artificial snow in their hands. It felt just like the real thing only it was not cold and did not melt! After the children washed their hands, they played a game of hot potato only with an ice cube. The ice was slippery and it was fun trying to quickly pass it to each other.

It was still raining outside, so we settled for meeting animals up close in the education center. After all, you cannot come all the way to TreeHouse and not see some wildlife! The children got to observe our reptiles and amphibians up close as well as meet our resident turkey vulture, Einstein. After that they got a special visit from Jaws the opossum and Buddy the Eastern screech owl! With the day over, the kids put on their coats and put up their hoods before heading off with a big thank you for all of the fun that they had. At TreeHouse, we love teaching others about wildlife and instilling in them the importance of conservation. If you are interested in having an education program at TreeHouse Wildlife Center we have a few options to choose from. Be sure to call us in advance at (618) 466-2990 to make reservations!

Intern Rachael guides the nature nuts in a paint session that explored the colors found in nature.



Education Programs

One Hour Tour: An in depth tour of the facility for \$2.00 per person with a \$20.00 minimum. Come meet all of our education animals and hear about their natural history!

Field Trip Program: A two hour educational program for \$4.00 per student. Choose from a variety of programs like “Predator and Prey” or “Fur and Feathers: Who am I?” and then enjoy a free hour afterwards for lunch and/or a self-led tour of our resident wildlife.

Nature Nuts Program: An hour and a half education program designed for children ages 3-5 at \$5.00 per child. There will be crafts, games, and story time, as well as other themed activities. Pick up our Nature Nuts flyer at TreeHouse for a list of the monthly themes and dates! Have a group of preschoolers? You can also request a Nature Nuts Program at a time that works for you!

BUILDING PROGRESS REPORT



Thanks to the generous support of **Ameren Illinois** and the **Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation**, the Raptor Rehabilitation Complex is up and running. Construction by Mosby Woodwork, Grafton. This 96' x 60' complex handles everything raptors need once they leave the indoor clinic until their release back to the wild. The complex contains 18 individual 12' x 12' holding areas that can be expanded to 12'x 24'—the birds' space increases as their rehab progresses.

The 18 expanded holding areas can also be used for release training on live prey by orphaned raptors as well as adult raptors admitted with head injuries. Young raptors are backed up by their parents in the wild until they get the hunting thing perfected, so we need them to be able to hunt live prey before leaving TreeHouse. Concerning adult raptors with head injuries, we need to ensure that all their senses needed for hunting are working perfectly. Because we obviously can't get them to read an eye chart, hunting live prey is the next best (and natural) choice.

All raptors coming into rehab need flight training. Flight paths in this complex can increase by 12' increments from a 12'x12' space up to 216' long. The 216' path incorporates four 90 degree turns to accommodate falcons and accipiters who bank and turn while hunting other birds on the wing.

Most of the interior walls of this complex can move. All the changes mentioned above can be accomplished by simply sliding barn type doors. This complex allows us to rehab multiple birds at the same time. The more quickly these birds are rehabbed and released back to the wild, the better it is for them and for TreeHouse. One of our top expenses is food for the raptors, and speedy rehabilitation certainly cuts that down.

BUILDING PROGRESS REPORT

Listed below are several building projects that still need funding. If you, your friends, family, or company would be interested in funding one of these projects or volunteering on our construction crew, please contact Adele at TreeHouse for more details:

Small Mammal Rehab Cage Complex: \$10,000

Waterfowl Rehab Cage Complex: \$7,000 (partially funded)

Permanent Resident Raptor Complex: \$7,000

Permanent Resident Small Mammal Duplex: \$7,000 (partially funded)

Permanent Resident Waterfowl Exhibit: \$10,000

Storage Facility and Mouse House: \$20,000 (partially funded)

The **Avian Ward** plans are still fluid due to the fact that plans had to be altered to accommodate our changing needs. As large waterfowl such as trumpeter swans and white pelicans increasingly migrate through our area, more and more of them are admitted with injuries. For example, in a two week period recently we received an injured white pelican and three injured trumpeter swans (two of which were lone survivors of a group that was shot, and the other group hit power lines). The third injured swan was also shot.

Trumpeters can weigh up to 40 pounds with an 8-10' wing span and a neck that allows them to peer around corners, so besides increased hospital cage sizes and a walk-in freezer to store food, we need to incorporate an indoor area for these birds to swim to restore their waterproofing ability before release to the wild. The current avian ward structure will be expanded to include the in-ground pool that already exists. This will be a great facility to rehab these truly magnificent birds.

The Fawn Pen at Redwall

Funding provided by
The Chaney Family.

Built by interns &
volunteers at TreeHouse





Thanks to everyone—staff, volunteers, friends, and donors who made our **31st Annual Open House** a success.



A special thank you to Dr. Paul Myer and Dr. Melissa Clayton for staffing our popular Stuffed Animal Clinic



**Thanks to our open house supporters,
and congratulations to our raffle winners**

Wildlife quilt, made by **Deana Browne**, won by Bill & Ruth Schroeder of Hillsboro

Wolf print, donated by **Cheryl Pride**, won by Jane Bush, Collinsville

Owl wood carving, by **B. David Duncan**, won by John Yobby, Granite City

Metal eagle sculpture, donated by **Pajarito Native American Shop**, won by Barry Fitzgerald, Springfield

Framed photo, donated by **Jacoby Arts Center**, won by Tom Foster, Edwardsville

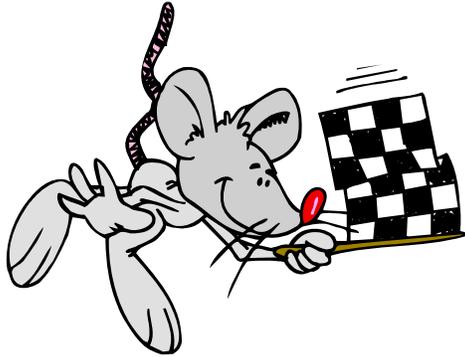
32" TV, donated by **Friends of TreeHouse**, won by Virginia Woulfe-Beile, Alton

Kindle Fire, donated by **Friends of TreeHouse**, won by Phyllis Mooney

Vase, made by **Rose Tomlinson**, won by Kristie Luebbert

Wooden Eagle, made by **Jim Droste**, won by Brittany Inman, East Alton

Princess basket, donated by **Cheryl Pride**, won by Melissa Moehle, Fairview Heights



The National Great Rivers Museum was the scene of TreeHouse's Great Mouse Race. Chairman of the event was Charlie Deutsch, and he along with a cadre of TreeHouse staff, friends and volunteers scaled more than a few obstacles to make this a successful event.

Look for our second Great Mouse Race coming in the spring.

Buddy the Owl



Tied: Buddy the Screech Owl by Kadie, age 9



A Special Thanks to Our Mouse Race Donors

Quality Buick, Pontiac,
GMC, Cadillac
Nestle Purina
Melissa Schmidt
David and Carol Stevenson
Josephine's Ltd.
The Cookie Factory Bakery
6th Street Diner
Hawthorne Animal Hospital
Dulse & Rugosa
Jacoby Arts Center
Jim and Mary Roberts
Rob's Discount Mufflers
Icke's Flooring
The Audubon Center at Riverlands
Eric Bloemker
Schlafly Beer
Stephen Hale
Imo's Pizza
Pajarito Native American Shop
Mississippi Mud Pottery
J.R. and Mia Walters
My Just Desserts
Harrison's Gift Shop
The Loading Dock
Grafton Winery
Elaine Perkins
B. David Duncan
Patricia A. Griffin
Tom and Pat Hewlett
Jeanine Nonn
Riverbend Billiards and Grill

Tied: Fox by Andrea, age 9

From North of the Border – by Intern Jenni Filman

Interning at Treehouse this past summer was easily the best experience I have had in my life. At first I was apprehensive about venturing to the Midwest from Ontario on my own via two trains that totalled around 15 hours of travel, but I wouldn't dream of spending the beginning of my summer any other way. Immediately Adele made me feel so welcomed, as I'm sure she makes everyone feel the first time you meet her. My favourite part of being at Treehouse was being thrown into all the daily responsibilities right away, including cleaning and cutting up the chickens to feed to the raptors! The dedication of the other interns and multiple volunteers was heart-warming, as I could tell they truly enjoyed spending their time at Treehouse. I learned many lifelong skills while interning that will be undeniably useful in my academic and personal future, from using a power saw for the first time to build a ladder in one of the outdoor cages, to picking up and putting jesses on a barn owl.



Being so close to and involved with wildlife for the first time has given me some direction of what I want to do after I finish my bachelor's degree in Zoology at the University of Guelph. I want to thank Adele for being so amazing in addition to the other interns and volunteers that I met during my month at Treehouse. If I'm welcome to, I'd love to come back and intern for another month or longer next summer!



Lunch with the interns is where I discover many new things. While interns are learning what we do at TreeHouse, I have in fact learned a few things from these millennials. Zombies are huge! Who knew we needed a zombie apocalypse plan? The Lion King seems to be one of their favorite movies.

One lunchtime debate concluded that Princess Aurora of *Sleeping Beauty* fame is a blonde, not a brunette (I lost that one), and thank goodness I have plenty of help figuring out all the buttons on my smart phone. -Adele



We celebrated "Wild" Bill Crawford, our tireless landscaper, with a birthday hot dog!



Are you looking at me?
Orphaned Yellow-crowned Night-heron



Casey gets a blessing during the Feast of St. Francis Blessing of the Animals at Christ Church Cathedral



Interns and volunteers busy prepping food for the animals on the day shift



An adult river otter patient



Thanks to Matt Kallal and his crew, plus Sean Foley for donating their labor to install the concrete floor for our pavilion.



5th Annual Faith In Action workday included young and old clearing honeysuckle at TreeHouse. Churches participating included: First United Methodist Church, Godfrey Emmanuel Free Methodist Church, Alton Community Christian Church, Alton Mission Church, Alton Thank You!



Thanks to Dr. Craig Staehle of Best Friends Animal Hospital in Swansea for literally piecing back together this red-eared slider that had been hit by a car.



Thanks to Bob Lair, sales and service manager at Cynmar Scientific Supply Corp. in Carlinville for donating a microscope to our clinic.

Lewis and Clark College students Tad Forgy, Megan Boyer, and Sarah Ratkewicz volunteer time at TreeHouse for their Speech Interpersonal Communications class





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

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

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

Name _____

Date of Birth _____
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Make checks payable to:

TreeHouse Wildlife Center

and send to

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

attn: Jennifer Yordy

Other Locations:

Troy Hawthorne
(618.667.4900)

Adair Gardens
(618.235.2744)

Countryside
(618.664.4420)

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




We take exceptional care of pets!

THANK YOU

Granite City High School Science Club
 Belle Valley School in Belleville
 Gene Sands
 Michelle Mock
 Carol Frew
 Lisa Mosby
 Brenda Blumstein
 John Bick
 Kathy Tidwall
 Cale Fisher
 Elissa Utiss

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

IN MEMORY OF

Eric Bloemker's mother,
 Barb Bloemker

Marion F. "Pop" Brown

Elizabeth Schaaf

A. Marie Phillips

TreeHouse members
 Betty Close
 Mary Tober
 Don Brasher

IN HONOR OF

Dr. Paul and Donna
 Myer's birthdays &
 Christmas

Christmas greetings to
 Rod & Maggi Vaught

**For more stories please check out
 the intern's blog at:
<http://treehousenotebook.wordpress.com>**



Einstein

Wish List

33 gal. trash bags

Canned cat food

Welding gloves

Fishing nets with handles (all sizes)

Garden hoses

Sweatshirts & sweatpants

Cash donations

Tractor with scoop or
(Mechanical) Bobcat

Mini van with stow & go seating

Walk-in freezer

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
(636)-492-1610

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

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

TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers Membership consists of a minimum donation of
\$15.00 annually

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

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**