

# EAGLE VALLEY RAPTOR CENTER

caring for nature's injured and orphaned wildlife

Flights of Fancy Newsletter

DECEMBER, 2005

## November Highlights

Things are starting to wind down for the winter at Eagle Valley, though the nice weather brought out a few final tours. We did two reading programs for the Westlink kindergartners and our "parking lot sale" cleared out well. The big highlight of the month was our educational program at the 21st Street Warren Theater. Tara, our big eagle owl, was a huge hit, as was Miles the barn owl. Lucky Tara got to post for a picture with Harry Potter himself (OK, not really Harry, but a Warren employee, Tommy, who looked remarkably like the boy wizard)! Movie-goers enjoyed seeing the owls up close and learning about the center.

B98 FM listeners may have heard Turnpike, our American kestrel, chirping on the air on November 11<sup>th</sup>. We did an in-studio interview with Brett and Tracy, and Turnpike and Miles, our barn owl, were both well-received. We've even had a few calls for tours based on B98 promotions.

We also received a \$1,000 donation from the Gander Mountain store, in part for Ken taking golden eagle Talon out for their grand opening back in September. If you happen to be shopping at Gander Mountain this holiday season, be sure to say a word of thanks to the wonderful folks out there for their donation and support of Eagle Valley.

*--Ken Lockwood, Program Director*

## New Rehab Facility

We completed work on our new receiving room/vet clinic last month, and it looks terrific. We have proper cabinets and shelving, an exam table, two incubators, and cages for injured raptors. We are still in need of a few items, including a microwave, a small refrigerator, and a baby scale. If you can donate any of these, please call Ken at 316-393-0710. Remember, your gift to us is fully tax deductible and will be put to good use in helping to cure and release our feathered friends.



**"Tara" our eagle owl,  
and "Harry" (Tommy)  
at the 21st Street  
Warren.**

**Harry Potter fans:  
keep your eyes  
peeled in the new  
movie for an owl  
just like Tara!**



## Success Story for November

In mid-October, the good folks at Wichita Psychiatric Associates contacted us on a downed hawk in the parking lot at 13<sup>th</sup> & Tyler. The injured bird turned out to be a female Cooper's hawk. We suspected a fracture in the left wing, but x-rays showed nothing amiss.

We wrapped the wing and kept the bird confined and quiet. After a week, we removed the bandage and moved the bird to a larger pen. It showed limited ability to fly, but after a few days it began to flap excitedly around the pen.

Cooper's hawks are notoriously difficult to keep in captivity and once it was apparent that this bird was desperate to get away from us, Ken released her behind the center. Her wing had completely healed and she flew like a champ!

## Volunteer Spotlight

Rachel Bournival has been with Eagle Valley for well over a year and a half. She is now a firm fixture at the center, coming out at least twice each week to clean pens, feed birds, help with school programs and tours, and just generally do anything that needs doing. She also picks up and transports injured raptors from the Wichita area for rehabilitation.

"I tried to get rid of her at first," Ken admits sheepishly, "but she stuck with it and now I don't know what I'd do without her."

Her favorite bird is Wasu, the bald eagle, a feeling which is apparently mutual as he began to court earlier this year. But the new red-tailed hawk Harley comes in at a close second, and she comes out as often as she can to work with him. She is fortunate to have a very flexible work schedule to accommodate her bird-related activities, and her coworkers are (mostly) used to finding boxed-up birds sitting in her office.

She learned about the center from board member Dr. Alan Maccarone, whom she met while working on her Zoo Science degree at Friends University.

"I always wanted a chance to work with raptors," she explains. "I wouldn't give this opportunity up for the world."

In addition to general bird-keeping duties, Rachel also serves on the board of directors and publishes the monthly newsletter.



**Rachel poses with Harley, a Harlan's red-tailed hawk. She has been working with him for a month and he is doing well.**

### Christmas is Coming!

Everybody has that one person on their gift list that is nearly impossible to shop for. What do you get for the person who has everything? Well, if they're an animal-lover, what about a membership to Eagle Valley?

Our "Adopt-a-Bird" program makes a terrific holiday gift – the recipient will be given a certificate of adoption, a photo and biography of their bird, and a free pass to visit our center, so they can meet all of the birds (including their own) in person! And you get the satisfaction of knowing you are helping save the lives of injured raptors in south central Kansas, as well as helping us bring the majesty and wonder of these birds to the public. And – as if that wasn't enough – your gift is fully tax deductible.

Call EVRC at 316-393-0710 for more details, or donate online at our website: [www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org](http://www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org). Adoption packages start at just \$30. The recipients will thank you...and so will the birds!

### Goddard Sonic Donates Tables

The Sonic in Goddard is remodeling their restaurant, and they donated four of their four-sided metal tables to Eagle Valley. These tables are still in good condition, despite their use, and after repainting will make an excellent addition to the center's seating capacity for parties and tours.

### November Events

We had 4 different home schools come out for tours this month. The kids really enjoy coming out to learn about the birds in a natural setting.

Our parking lot sale did well – we earned some money to cover our food for the winter.

Happy Holidays!



## Corporate Sponsors Help Bring Nature to the Classroom

Gas prices have come down considerably from their high of close to \$3 a gallon, but the prices are still hitting hard, and it's been especially hard noticeable at our local school districts. Their priority is obviously the students' education, and it's sad that the first budget cuts have to be the field trips. Most schools are allowed one trip per year (if any), and with so many options to choose from, how can a teacher pick just one?

This is where *you*, as a Corporate Sponsor come in. It's not that difficult. A simple gift of \$150 will enable us to take our birds to a school for a program - giving children the chance to see these birds up-close and personal and learn about their importance to our world. Donors can select the school and grade level for the program they sponsor - maybe your child's or grandchild's class. Or perhaps your neighbor is an elementary school teacher, struggling with how to enhance her lesson plans. Or maybe you would prefer to support another type of organization - such as a group of at-risk kids, the Wichita Children's Home, or COMCARE of Sedgwick County. All of these agencies have seen what our programs can do for the people in their care - and all of them are facing serious budget cuts.

People or organizations who sponsor a classroom visit or field trip will receive a framed certificate of sponsorship for the year. We'll include a special mention of your program in our next newsletter and inform the entire staff of the school of your donation. What a terrific opportunity for your company! And we'll follow it all up with some pictures from the program you sponsored, so you can see your donation in action.

We feel that the only way to save our environment and our planet is through education - and through you. Become a Corporate Sponsor today.

### Yes! I'd like to help!

Enclosed is my donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to your mailing list.

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to volunteer with special projects at EVRC.

I am interested in Board of Directors/Committee membership.

I am interested in scheduling a school/church visit or group tour at your facility.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



### Cut out and mail to:

Eagle Valley Raptor Center  
927 N. 343<sup>rd</sup> St. W.  
Cheney, KS 67025

Schedule your private tour at Eagle Valley Raptor Center! Give your children and yourselves a learning experience you will never forget!  
Call (316) 393-0710

[www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org](http://www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org)

