

EAGLE VALLEY RAPTOR CENTER

caring for nature's injured and orphaned wildlife

FLIGHTS OF FANCY NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2006

WELCOME

Eagle Valley is proud to introduce the newest addition to our raptor family: Nami Spirit, a 7 year old female bald eagle who was shot in Oklahoma a little over a year ago. The injury resulted in a partial amputation of her right wing. She spent some time in Arkansas and North Carolina while waiting for permanent placement.

We finally received permission last week from Fish & Wildlife, and Spirit was shipped to us on Thursday, April 20. After a mix-up which sent her to Minneapolis instead of Wichita, she arrived safe and sound at 11:30 p.m.

We are letting her rest and adjust to her new surroundings for a few weeks, and then we will begin training her to be an educational ambassador. Our goal is to be able to take her to area schools to help teach about conservation and ecology.

Many people came forward to help pay for Spirit's transportation costs:

- Gracie Turner and her family & friends, who raised money at Gracie's 8th birthday party
- East Side Business Association
- Angie & Bob Whitehead and family
- Ceco, Inc.
- KAKE 10 and KWCH 12 for airing Spirit's story on their evening news

The monies raised more than covered her airfare to Wichita. The extra will be used to provide food and vet care to Nami as well as build a new exhibit pen for her.



Nami Spirit is approximately seven years old, and weighs about twelve pounds.

Did You Know...?

The bald eagle almost wasn't our national symbol. Ben Franklin wanted the turkey to be our official bird, because he felt the eagle was "of bad moral character."

How Do You Train a Bald Eagle?

During the first few weeks at her new home at Eagle Valley, Spirit's training will be mostly passive. "We're getting her used to our presence and our voices," Ken Lockwood says. This means spending time just sitting in her pen, talking to her or reading out loud. She'll receive tasty treats, which will teach her to associate humans with food.

Eagle Valley Opens Online Store

EVRC is excited about it's new online gift shop, **The Eagle's Nest!** What better way to support the center than by purchasing some really cool merchandise?

Volunteer and board member Rachel Bournival set up the shop and created the designs to grace the various products. The store is hosted through Cafepress.com, which utilizes print-on-demand technology. This means that the center does not have to purchase large numbers of pre-made products to earn money; rather, a small profit is earned off each item sold. While it might not sound like much, those small amounts will add up. Already the store has brought it over \$30 for Eagle Valley!

The store officially opened on April 4th and currently has over 15 products for sale, unique items featuring the Eagle Valley logo and some of the resident birds. "Right now it's just a 'basic' shop," says Rachel. "It allows one of each 'type' of item to be offered for sale." However, Cafepress has the option of paying a small fee to upgrade to a premier shop, which can have unlimited items and designs. We will probably upgrade the shop sometime in the near future, so be on the lookout!



To visit The Eagle's Nest, go to:

<http://www.cafepress.com/evrc>

Cafepress currently has a Mother's Day promotion running, with free shipping on orders over \$50 – so get shopping!



Hawk Release at Lake Afton Earns a Mention

The West Side Times-Sentinel ran a story this month about a red-tailed hawk release at Lake Afton. The article was excellent and has generated some interest! Bill and Sharon Scheffler, who write for the paper's outdoor section, were present. In fact, Sharon got the privilege of releasing the hawk!



Talon, our golden eagle.

To adopt Talon, contact Eagle Valley Raptor Center at 316-393-0710 or raptorcare@aol.com.



In the Spotlight

Talon, Golden Eagle



Talon is a five year old female golden eagle. She was shot in Colorado when she was about a year old and deemed unreleasable due to the injury sustained to her wing. Originally, she was placed in a breeding program at a Colorado zoo, but when she killed two male eagles, they decided to try to place her elsewhere. Ken saw her online the very first day she was put up for placement, and quickly offered to take her. She has been with him every since.

Talon is an excellent bird on exhibit, whether at the center or off-site at a school or other public function.

Golden eagle facts:

- They get their name from the gold-tinted feathers on the back of their head
- Golden eagles can see a rabbit on the ground from over a mile up in the sky
- Scientists have clocked golden eagles diving at over 100 miles per hour!