



## Florida or Bust!

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In late September, Eagle Valley finally received the news we had been waiting for: U.S. Fish and Wildlife had agreed to allow Rudy and Sam, the two bald eagles we took in after the El Dorado Correctional Facility Rehab Center closed down, to be placed in a new, permanent home. This was a huge relief to us, as our food bill for the two months we housed them was astronomical! It was also a relief to our resident male bald eagle, Wasu, who was probably getting tired of sharing his home with two bossy squatters!

Their new home is the Calusa Nature Center, in Fort Myers, Florida. The Center is an environmental education center which features a planetarium, museum, three nature trails, aviaries and butterfly gardens. Rudy and Sam settled in very quickly to their new home. The director called the day they arrived to tell us they were both cool as cucumbers, even in the hot Florida sunshine!

We are thrilled they are both able to continue the work of educational ambassadors, to be able to teach people of all ages about the beauty, majesty, and

importance of these animals. "These guys have been around together for almost eleven years," says Ken Lockwood, "so I was really happy to see them go together as a pair."



**Rudy, loaded in a transport crate, awaits her flight to Fort Myers.**

Eagle Valley has lots of owls to learn about. What can an owl teach you?



### Advice from an Owl

- Remain focused
- Be "Whoop" you are
- Trust in a wise friend
- Live off the land
- Glide through the dark times
- Be observant
- Stay sharp!
- Be a good navigator
- Life's a hoot!

## “Barb”-arino Sets His Sights on Freedom

You may recall the poor great horned owl we featured in a previous newsletter that had managed to get himself wrapped up in a barbed wire fence. The bird was snared tight, in pain, and unable to get free. It took Ken a patient half-hour to gently snip him free and remove him safely without causing any further damage.

Fortunately, the owl suffered no broken bones (which we expected) and only some cuts and lacerations on his wings.

He was also dehydrated and somewhat malnourished.

We were able to cure “Barb”-arino’s ills and he has been recovering nicely at our center since his rescue in mid-August. His wounds healed, his strength returned, and we deemed him suitable for release the first weekend in October.

We view every release or placement as a “success”, but it’s not often that we can truthfully state that one bird got set free

not once, but twice.

Good luck, Barbarino.



## Crate Training with Kili



Kili, our Peregrine Falcon, has started crate training in preparation for her very first off-site school program later this month! The lucky recipients of her debut will be Heights High School, whose mascot is the Falcon!

The Peregrine Falcon was nearly extinct due to pesticide

poisoning, specifically DDT, in the mid-20th century. However, with conservation efforts and captive breeding programs, the species recovered sufficiently to be removed from the Endangered Species List in 1999.

The word *peregrine* means “wanderer”, and it’s a fitting

name: peregrines can fly over 15,000 miles in a single year, one of the longest migrations of any North American bird!

We’re very excited to be able to bring this beautiful species into our programs and to share her with adults and children in the community.

## Lawsuit Dropped

Many of you were probably aware of the recent legal difficulties Eagle Valley was experiencing with our neighbors. With great relief, we can announce that the dispute has been dropped and there is no further litigation pending at this time! This has removed a tremendous burden from us, and we can return our focus to

caring for the injured birds we receive and educating the public about their role in our environment.

We’d like to thank all of you who gave us your support during this time, whether it was writing letters or speaking up on our behalf at the Metropolitan Planning Commission meeting or the Sedgwick

County Commissioners meeting, or just sending your thoughts, prayers, and well-wishes in our direction!

We’d also like to send a big thank you to our attorney, Bill Cather. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication, Bill!



## Eagle Scout Project

It seems that we've had more Eagle Scout projects recently than we do eagles! Not that we're complaining—these scouts are doing a fantastic job helping out at the center as well as earning the highest Boy Scout honor.

Our current project is being completed by Joey Johnson from Troop 729. Joey came up with a way to raise the huge log benches in front of our two eagle exhibit pens to make it

easier for people, especially the elderly, to sit on them comfortably. Once the supports are in place, we will still need to sand and shellac the undersides of each log. To the right, Joey and his dad work on stabilizing one of the supports. Below that, you can see firsthand the results of their work: a group of seniors touring the center were the first to "test-drive" the improved seating. Their verdict? well done, Joey!



**Our 2007 Special Edition "Miles" Christmas ornament. We have plenty of new and different ornaments for 2008!**

## 80 Ornament Shopping Days Until X-mas!

We haven't even rolled out the Halloween decorations yet and already we're getting calls and requests for the Christmas ornaments we sold last year.

You will all be thrilled to hear that, yes, we are selling Christmas ornaments again, and we have some new ones to tempt you with! The 2008 batch features some larger-sized ornaments with some birds you didn't see last year: Templeton, our great horned owl, Annie, the fickle barred owl, and Kili,

our new peregrine falcon. We also have a new poses for bald eagle Wasu and turkey vulture Herman.

Ornaments are \$3.00 each, or 4 for \$10.00. We also have the "Eagle Valley Christmas Set", which is a set of 7 ornaments for \$15.00 (one of each bird). You can order by emailing Ken at [raptorcare@aol.com](mailto:raptorcare@aol.com) or by sending in the order form on the lastpage.



**EVRC Christmas Ornaments make a great gift idea—they're cute and the purchase helps care for injured birds of prey.**

## Eagle Valley Raptor Center

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Caring for Nature's  
Orphaned and Injured Wildlife



Please consider making a donation to Eagle Valley Raptor Center this month. With winter coming on, our food bills will steadily increase, as the birds require more food to maintain their body temperature.

Also, don't forget our "Walk This Way" sidewalk campaign, which is still on-going. We're still a long way from our goal, but you can help us get there!

And your Christmas ornament purchases will fund our food supply throughout the coming winter! Plus they make great gifts!

Name

Address

Phone

Email address

Yes! I'd like to help!

- Add me to your mailing list
- I'd like to volunteer or help with special projects.
- I am interested in Board of Directors/Committee membership
- I'd like to schedule a school/church program or tour of Eagle Valley's facilities
- I'd like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas ornaments (\$3 ea or 4/\$10—please let us know if you want a specific bird pictured on your ornament)
- I'd like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ "Eagle Valley Christmas Set" of 7 ornaments (\$15 ea)