



Flights of Fancy Newsletter

First Storytelling Night a Success!

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Eagle Valley Raptor Center hosted its first Campfire Storytelling Night on October 31, Halloween night. We could not have asked for a more perfect evening—an almost full moon shone down out of the clear sky, and there was hardly any wind to speak of.

About 20 people attended the event, which started off with a short guided tour by volunteer Rachel Bournival. Visitors paid a quick visit to each one of the center's resident birds before heading down to the campsite, where a crackling fire

awaited them.

Storyteller Eugene Cameron, of the Southern Ponca Tribe in Oklahoma, was ready and waiting with some fascinating tales.

He started off not with a story, but with a traditional blessing. Taking a pinch of cedar wood from his pouch, which had been handed down through the generations, he cast it on the fire with blessings to the north, south, east, and west. Those in attendance brushed the smoky air upwards across their bodies, invoking the calming ritual.

Then the fun began! Eugene spoke until dark, with stories about turtles and geese, hawks and owls and wolves. His stories spoke of honor and bravery and the need to preserve the wonder of our natural world.

As darkness fell, a real owl joined the group and hooted softly in the deepening night. Coyotes howled in the distance. It was truly a magical experience, one that we hope to repeat again soon. So keep watch for our next Campfire Night!



The crowd gathers at EVRC's fire pit for an evening of Native American storytelling and fun.



Eugene Cameron of the South Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma uses cedar to bless the gathering and the night.

Fellow Rehabber Mourned

A very good friend of Eagle Valley and a phenomenal wildlife rehabilitator has passed away.

Sigrid Noll Ueblacker, founder of the Birds of Prey Foundation in Broomfield, Colorado, passed away on October 28. Sigrid became a licensed raptor rehabilitator in 1982 and founded the Birds of Prey Foundation in 1984. Her legacy as Director of the Foundation includes over 10,000 birds treated. Sigrid's quarter-century of often intensive,

round-the-clock work gave an immeasurable boost to America's raptor population from the many thousands of successful releases, then in turn, those birds' countless offspring in the wild. She conducted training seminars in bird rehabilitation, and was a tireless fundraiser on behalf of the Foundation's avian care and release efforts. Since the 1980s, schoolchildren all over the area were captivated and enriched by her educational programs, which featured unreleasable birds who

themselves were longtime friends and companions of Sigrid's.

Our own bald eagle, Wasu, spent some time at Sigrid's facility just outside of Denver, while we completed construction of our large flight pen.

Sigrid's family remains in our thoughts and prayers. She will be greatly missed, both as a wildlife advocate and friend.



New Eagle Owl Flies In

Not everything that happens in Vegas necessarily stays in Vegas.

The newest addition to our educational bird line-up is Durango, an African Eagle Owl hatched this past April in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was hand raised by a raptor specialist and falconer who helps zoos and nature centers acquire educational birds.

Durango has already been making a name for himself at Eagle Valley with his calm demeanor and beautiful eyes. He's already been featured on KPTS Channel 8, and on November 17th will appear on both KWCH Channel 12 on their morning show, and on KSN Channel 3 at noon.

Visitors in Love with Lovebird Tours

Eagle Valley's newest attraction has brought the lovebirds out of their love nests!

A "Lovebird Tour" is a special program package from Eagle Valley designed exclusively for couples. Each private, guided tour includes behind-the-scenes activities, bird training sessions, and up close photo

opportunities with our resident birds. You and your "lovebird" have EVRC all to yourself during your tour. It's the perfect gift idea for that special someone in your life. Or give a gift certificate for a Lovebird Tour to a special couple in your life. It's a fantastic idea for holidays, special events, anniversaries, birthdays,

or "just because"!

A Lovebird Tour costs \$50. Gift Certificates are good for up to 1 year after purchase, and tours must be scheduled ahead of time, to ensure availability.

For more information contact Ken Lockwood at 316-393-0710, or you can email Ken at raptorcare@aol.com.



Eagle Scout Project

We seem to have more Eagle Scout projects than we do eagles!

Our most recent project was completed by Gabriel Greene of Troop 895 from Haysville, KS. He built some beautiful benches in front of the Westar Energy pavilion for our senior visitors to sit and wait before

and after their tours. The benches are designed the same as the ones in front of our bird pens, so they blend well with the facility's overall look. They're quite sturdy and will definitely come in handy!

Here is a proud Gabriel, posing on the fruits of his labor.



News Bite!

Eagle Valley has been invited to join the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce! This will be a terrific opportunity to showcase what we do, as well as get the word out about our organization!

Golden Eagle for an Eagle Scout

Our resident golden eagle, Talon, recently traveled all the way to Garden City to attend a Code of Honor Ceremony for a new Eagle Scout.

Lucky Scout Micah received a true eagle scout honor with Talon present.

If you know of any young man about to receive his Eagle

Scout award, consider giving him the once-in-a-lifetime gift of a live eagle at his ceremony.

To make arrangements for an eagle visit at an Eagle Scout ceremony, or any other, contact Ken Lockwood at 316-393-0710.



Wichita PT Cruiser Club Visits

The Wichita PT Cruiser Club visited Eagle Valley Raptor Center recently. What a fun time! With our parking lot filled with PT Cruisers of every color and style imaginable, the group enjoyed a fun tour and then settled down in our Westar Energy pavilion for a barbecue lunch.

Just a reminder that EVRC is a fantastic place for a group outing. The PT Cruiser Club certainly enjoyed their time and their delicious meal at our facility.



Eagle Valley Raptor Center

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www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org

Caring for Nature's
Orphaned and Injured Wildlife



Please consider making a donation to Eagle Valley Raptor Center this month. With the winter coming up, our tours and programs slow down due to weather... yet in October we took in 5 red tailed hawks, 2 screech owls, 1 Cooper's hawk, 1 great horned owl, and 1 kestrel. We still need your donations to help cover food and veterinary care for these birds!

Don't forget that purchasing magnets and attending our upcoming benefit dinner are also great ways to help support EVRC. We couldn't do it without you!!



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 order ____ magnets and/or ____ hanging ornaments (fall theme). \$4 each or 3/\$10. Please enclose check.