



Flights of Fancy Newsletter

Bald Eagle Release in Honor of Slain Deputy

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On Saturday, February 13, at 3:30 p.m., Eagle Valley Raptor Center will publicly release a rehabilitated juvenile bald eagle named "Freedom." The bird will be returned to the wild on the banks of the Arkansas River, by Exploration Place in Wichita.

Freedom was found shot in the Geuda Springs area with a single gunshot wound to its wing. Goddard Veterinary Clinic donated time and Dr. Josh Alberg oversaw his care.

The wing has healed and Freedom has taken flight once more within Eagle Valley's large flight pen. Resident bald eagles Wasu and Cessna grudgingly allowed this young inter-

loper to perch and fly about during his recovery.

The eagle is being released in honor of Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputy Brian Etheridge, who was killed in the line of duty in September 2009.

"I wanted Freedom to be released in honor of Brian because he lost his life defending our freedom," Eagle Valley Program Director Ken Lockwood recently said in an interview.

Prior to the release, visitors to Exploration Place are invited to watch a video in Kemper Creative Learning Studio. The video, entitled "America n

Eagle" tells the story of two families of bald eagles that live on the Mississippi River. The video will be shown at 2:00 p.m., with a seating limit of 140, first come first served.

Sedgwick County Sheriff Robert Hinshaw will remove the hood from Freedom's head prior to his release. Sarah Etheridge, Brian's widow, and their daughter will also be in attendance.

We invite you all to turn out for this event. It's not every day that one gets to see a wild bald eagle do what it was born to do: soar through the skies...on the wings of love.

Freedom's Road to Freedom

It takes a lot to rehabilitate an injured bald eagle! Let's take a closer look at just how intensive this process can be.

When Freedom was first brought to Eagle Valley, the first order of business was to assess the severity of the injury. That meant a trip to the Goddard Veterinary Clinic for x-

rays. The broken bones were stabilized and immobilized. Then we had to keep him calm and quiet to give the wound time to heal and the bones a chance to knit properly. Of course, an eagle can't tell us when it doesn't feel well, so we had to monitor his condition closely for signs of pain, or infection, or other illness.

Once it was determined that the break had healed cleanly, it was time for the work to begin! Freedom required daily exercise, to recondition his muscles and stretch the tendons that had atrophied during his recuperation. That meant poor Ken had to run up and down that 100 foot flight pen, chasing after the bird as he tried to

find his wings again! (We're not sure, but we suspect Ken was worn out long before Freedom was!)

During that time, Freedom was subjected to regular check-ups to ensure that he did not reinjure himself.

But it's all paid off: Freedom will fly this weekend!

Love Bird Tours!

It's almost Valentine's Day, and Eagle Valley has the perfect gift for your sweetheart: a Love Bird Tour!

Love Bird Tours are just that: tours of our facility for a couple. You get a private, personalized, guided tour, complete with a look at what goes on behind the scenes. We will give you demonstrations on training and conditioning, and

if the wind permits, we'll even free-fly some of our birds. You'll also get up close and personal photo opportunities.

And to finish off the tour, a special photo of your and your special "love bird" in front of our life-sized bald eagle nest!

Tours must be scheduled in advance by calling Ken Lockwood at 316-393-0710 or emailing him at raptor-

care@aol.com.

Love Bird Tours make the perfect gift, either for that special someone in your life, or for a special couple you know who love birds.

At just \$50 (and knowing that all of that money goes toward the care and feeding of our birds), what better way to say "I Love You" this Valentine's Day?



January in Review...and a Look Ahead

Even with the cold weather slowing everybody else down, we kept the pace up here at Eagle Valley!

Our eagle owl Durango and barn owl Miley were well received at the Wichita Home

Show, where the City of Cheney had a booth promoting the town.

Also we successfully rehabilitated and released 2 red tailed hawks, 1 great horned owl, and 1 crow.

We also held our annual Board of Directors meeting to decide on the direction for the coming year. You will not be disappointed at what we have in store for you in 2010!!

EVRC @ Wichita Garden Show



After a six year hiatus, Eagle Valley Raptor Center is returning to the Wichita Garden Show. And what a homecoming it will be!

We are teaming up with Johnson's Garden Center to create

an incredible Yellowstone-themed display. There will be a life-sized eagles nest atop a towering cliff, and our own resident golden eagle, Talon, will be on hand to complete the design!

The Wichita Garden show runs from March 3rd through the 7th and is held at the Century II Convention Center in downtown Wichita.

Stop by and see the show!

Coming Up Soon....

Aside from the Bald Eagle Release and the Wichita Garden Show, here are some other events we have coming up:

B98 Interview—2/10

American Legion Post 401—2/17

Sedgwick County Conservation District Annual Meeting—2/24

Eagle Valley Raptor Center

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Please consider making a donation to Eagle Valley Raptor Center this month. The bitter cold weather increases our food needs exponentially! Please consider giving a tax-deductible gift to Eagle Valley to help provide food, shelter, and veterinary care to both our resident birds and the sick and injured birds we receive during the year.

Also be sure to come out to Exploration Place on Saturday, February 13th for our bald eagle release!

Visit our website:

www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org

Caring for Nature's Orphaned and Injured Wildlife



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.