



## Eagle Release at Exploration Place

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On Saturday, February 13, Eagle Valley Raptor Center released “Freedom,” a juvenile bald eagle who had been found shot in late 2009. She was released in memory of Sheriff Deputy Brian Etheridge, who was killed in the line of duty last September.

In attendance that afternoon were hundreds of spectators,

including Brian’s widow Sarah and their young daughter Natalie, and Sedgwick County Sheriff Bob Hinshaw, who removed the hood from the bird prior to her release.

The release went off without a hitch, almost as if all parties had rehearsed it prior to the event. Freedom spread her wings—both now fully

healed—and soared right over the Keeper of the Plains.

For most, however, the truly emotional moment was when young Natalie stepped forward and asked if she could touch the bird before it flew. She gently touched its tail feathers, almost as if in blessing, before the eagle took once again to the skies.



Above left: Ken Lockwood releases “Freedom.” (Photo courtesy of Travis Heying, Wichita Eagle). Above right: Natalie Etheridge touches the tail feathers of the eagle.

### Follow us!



Follow what’s happening at Eagle Valley Raptor Center on Twitter!

You can catch Ken’s posts at [twitter.com/raptorrehab](http://twitter.com/raptorrehab)

## The Early Bird Lays the Egg

Annie the barred owl surprised us all with an early egg-laying session! She is currently incubating her egg and being very territorial. She will continue to nest through the spring.



## Garden Show 2010

Eagle Valley was back at the Wichita Garden Show this year as part of a fantastic display by Johnson's Legacy Landscapes.

Owner Linden Johnson and Landscape Designer Jennifer Sloyer did a phenomenal job with their New World Garden. Featuring towering alpine trees, hardy plants, and rocky cliffs, their Yellowstone-themed garden was truly a work of art.

Topping off the display were Eagle Valley's own residents: Talon the golden eagle, Twister the screech owl, and—filling in for Talon over the weekend—

our great horned owl Templeton. All three birds are species that could be spotted in that type of environment in the wild. Also dotting the display were several professional wildlife mounts from Eagle Valley's own educational collection: a bobcat, eager to pounce on its unsuspecting prey; a beaver, checking out the still pond; a red-tailed hawk, searching for prey from a tall birch tree; a coyote, pausing mid-stride in its hunt to gaze curiously at the assembled humans.

Judging from the lines that extended out well from the

garden entrance, Johnson's Legacy Landscape's New World Garden was by far one of the more popular of all the themed gardens at the show. They were awarded the Contractors Award, which is awarded by their peers, as well as the Environmental Stewardship Award.

If you missed the Garden Show this year, you can check out the virtual tours available at [wichita360.com](http://wichita360.com).



Above: Talon, an 11-year old golden eagle, poses on a rocky outcropping at the Wichita Garden Show.

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Right: visitors at the Wichita Garden Show this year marvel at Talon, our golden eagle, on display at the Johnson's Legacy Landscapes New World Garden. Screech Owl Twister was also featured in the



## Raptor Placements

We were relieved to find a permanent home for two red-tailed hawks recently.

Our Krider's red-tailed hawk, "Harley II" was placed at Milford Nature Center in Junction City, KS. Harley was sent to us by a falconer, and he suffered a broken wing and injured leg. The kind folks at Milford agreed to take him in.

He is a calm and approachable bird and will make an excellent educational bird for them. As an added bonus, they work with a veterinarian who specializes in raptor feet. Hopefully they will be able to help Harley "put his best foot forward."

The second hawk we placed was "Hawkeye," a one-eyed

hawk who now resides in Sunset Zoo in Manhattan. With only one eye, he was unable to be released, but will enjoy a good life at the zoo.

If you're ever in those cities, be sure to pay our alumni a visit!

## *First Annual Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction*

Eagle Valley Raptor Center is partnering with The Looney Bin in Wichita to bring you the First Annual Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction, “An OWL-ing Good Time!”

The benefit will be held on Thursday, April 29th, from 5-10 p.m. at The Looney Bin, at 6140 E. 21st St. N. (near the intersection of Woodlawn and 21st Streets).

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and will start with a silent auction and cocktail hour. We will have some incredible items

available for auction, including some original paintings by a local Kansas painter and some fascinating creations all the way from Africa!

At 8:00 p.m. will start the dinner and show, and The Looney Bin has promised us some first-class comedy for the evening with comedians Reno Hype and Chad Daniels!

The show is restricted to people age 18 and over, but you must be 21 or older to purchase alcohol. Tickets are \$8 and are available online or at

The Looney Bin box office. Door proceeds and monies raised by the silent auction will all go to Eagle Valley Raptor Center.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact The Looney Bin at 316-618-HAHA (316-618-4242) or visit their website at looneybincomedy.com (be sure to click on “Wichita”).

So mark your calendars and come “hoot and holler” with us at the First Annual “OWL-ing Good Time” Benefit!



## *Sedgwick County Conservation District*

Eagle Valley has traveled all across Kansas over the last few years, making program presentations at various County Conservation District Annual meetings. Finally, though, we were able to do one literally right on our own doorstep when Sedgwick County invited us to their annual meeting in late February.

The program went very well and the members were suitably impressed and very complimentary. It was good to be recognized by the local agency, and even better that it did not require a three-hour drive before and after the event!

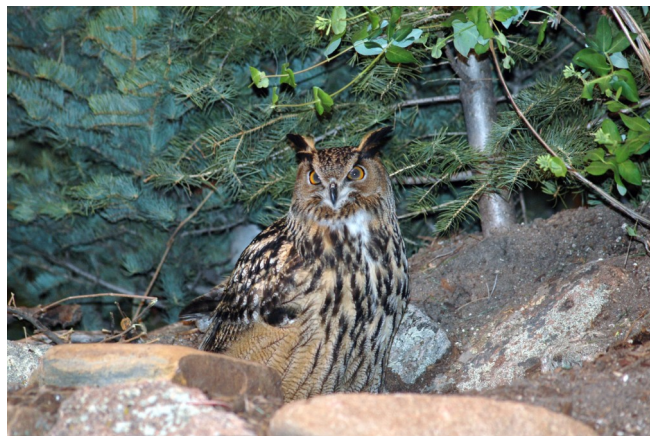
We look forward to being able to present at more of these

Conservation District meetings in the future, as well as return invitations to counties we’ve already visited.

For information on what services the Sedgwick County Conservation District provides, visit their website at:

[Sedgwickcounty.org/conservation](http://Sedgwickcounty.org/conservation)

### **More Garden Show Pictures:**



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Visit our website:

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

## Caring for Nature's Orphaned and Injured Wildlife



Please consider making a donation to Eagle Valley Raptor Center this month. Spring is just around the corner, and with spring comes lots and lots of babies! Each spring we typically receive anywhere between 20 and 30 baby owls who have been orphaned and are in need of care until they are ready to leave their foster-nest and start their lives in the wild. Your donation now will help ensure that we have plenty of food and veterinary supplies on hand for when the flood-tides come in!

Remember: your donation to Eagle Valley is fully tax deductible.



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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