

Nature's Nursery News

Volume 20, Issue 1

Winter 2010



The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.

-Gaylord Nelson,
founder of Earth Day



Mission Statement:

To improve the well-being of Northwest Ohio wildlife populations and habitat through public education and rehabilitation of injured, ailing, and orphaned wildlife, with an emphasis on coexistence.

Safe place, free meals help nurse Broad-winged Hawk back to health

A busted wing could spell doom for most wild birds unless they are fortunate enough to be rescued by a good Samaritan. That was just the case for a Broad-winged Hawk, one of Nature Nursery's newer residents.

Found injured and vulnerable in Napoleon, the hawk was brought to Nature's Nursery in October suffering from a fractured humerus. "The bone was in pieces but the bird held the wing nicely," said Laura Zitzelberger, director of operations. "We fully expected that the bird would have to be placed for education with the severity of the break."

But after a few weeks of small cage rest the bird was moved into a small outdoor cage. It moved around so well the staff decided to place the bird into the big flight cage. "To our amazement the hawk was able to fly the length of the 80-foot cage," Laura said.

In the wild, injured birds like this hawk are in danger of starving to death because they are unable to hunt, or falling prey to a larger predator. What caused the injury is not known, but it may have been struck by a car or have flown into a power line.

Upon being taken in the bird was taken to High Point Animal Hospital where its wing was x-rayed and it was given medication for pain. Its strong recovery was surprising and welcome.

This Broad-winged Hawk survived a broken wing, but missed annual migration. The bird is spending the winter at Nature's Nursery and should be releasable this spring.



"Our next step will be to make certain it can catch prey," Laura said. "We need to keep the

bird until spring since they are migratory."

(Continued on back page)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

2010 Walk for Wildlife

Saturday, May 8

The 2nd Annual Walk for Wildlife will be held on Saturday, May 8. Registration begins at 9 a.m., with the walk following at 10 a.m.

Help raise funds for Nature's Nursery while strolling along a one-mile walking trail around our beautiful Blue Creek property. Visit education stations along the route, where you and your kids can get up close and personal with native wildlife, and participate in hands-on learning activities.

New this year: A special "School Day" will be held on Friday, May 7, for area students. Call the Center at 419-877-0060 to learn how your class can participate.

For more info, visit www.natures-nursery.org.



Wish list

Nature's Nursery is in need of the following. Note this is a partial list. For a complete list, visit our website. Please call the Center if you can provide:

Unsalted walnuts or pecans (no shell)
 Chuck-A-Nut (pumpkin seeds)
 Plain Cheerios (store brand is fine)
 Unsweetened Mini Shredded Wheat cereal
 Baby food meat—puree
 Heavy crockery bowls
 Paper towels
 Dry & canned cat food
 Pedialyte (unflavored)
 Clay cat litter (not the clumping kind)
 Meijer or Andersons gift cards
 Medium & large transport kennels
 Heavy welders' gloves
 Lightweight leather gloves
 Office Depot or Office Max gift cards
 Color index cards
 8 1/2 X 11 copier paper
 Digital video camera
 Compact speakers for the lap top system
 Underwriting for portable gram scale w/ perch
 Underwriting for classroom newsletter
 New heating pads (no auto turn-off)
 Receiving blankets
 40-watt incandescent light bulbs
 75-100 watt full spectrum reptile lights
 Scrub brushes
 Heat packs (for volunteers' hands and feet)
 Electric heaters for outdoor water bowls
 Liquid laundry soap for front-load washer
 Medications and medical supplies — Nebulizer currently a high priority
 Small animal incubator and warming unit
 Power tools and hand tools (good condition)
 Heavy duty rakes
 Heavy duty carts or wheelbarrows
 Carpet squares
 Original Dawn dish liquid
 Postage stamps
 Underwriting for summer intern

Volunteer Corner

Get more involved — Volunteer!

Ever thought it'd be fun to get more involved with Nature's Nursery as a volunteer? Maybe caring for baby animals in your home, transporting an injured animal to the center, or helping people who call our hotline with problems or questions?

Believe it or not, it takes nearly 100 active volunteers to help our staff keep the organization running year-round. So as you might imagine, there's a job to fit virtually everyone's interests and skills — from hands-on animal care to office work to answering our phones. We offer projects for groups or individuals, and volunteering can be a one-time event or a regular weekly commitment.

Becky Kasperzak is a Nature's Nursery member and volunteer who got involved after tagging along one day a couple of years ago when her daughter, Hannah, was volunteering as a day keeper. After getting a tour of the Center that afternoon, Becky was hooked! Soon after, she took training classes to learn day keeping — then expanded to animal transporter and hotline volunteer!

And if that weren't enough, Becky even joined the Board of Trustees, where today she serves as Vice President of Development, in addition to still coming out to the Center for her weekly stint as a day keeper.

Becky says she LOVES working with and learning about the animals, but enjoys the people every bit as much. "I have loved getting to know the other volunteers," she says. "I'm around everyone from teenagers to senior citizens. And the staff is great to work with, too. I have never seen such dedication. They are constantly going beyond the call of duty.

"We have volunteers here who have been with the organization since it started 20 years ago. The reason they have stayed so long is because the staff is such a joy to work with. Both the staff members and the volunteers are very positive, and it makes the



Nature's Nursery member and volunteer Becky Kasperzak holds one of our program opossums. Among Becky's many volunteer duties, she is a day keeper once a week.

work environment fun. We have such a great time!"

For information about how YOU can become a volunteer at Nature's Nursery, visit our website, www.natures-nursery.org, where you can see job descriptions and download a volunteer application.

Building & Grounds volunteer needed

Nature's Nursery is looking for a Building & Grounds volunteer with general contractor skills. We have a Fix It/To Do list that always seems to need attention. We have a handful of volunteers who currently help with the list, but may not have the skills for some of the jobs. If you can help us out, please call Laura at 419-877-0060.

Development Notes

A donation to Nature's Nursery is an investment in the future

By Mark Tooman
Development Officer



For almost two years our news has been dominated by stories about our fragile economy. As a result, individuals and companies have become more critical than ever as they evaluate the charities they consider for support. Are they delivering programs and services that make a difference to their community while being good stewards of the dollars entrusted to them?

Ultimately, some organizations succeed while others fail. Nature's Nursery is one of those organizations that has been fortunate

Be a hero: Host a 'Fly-By' for your friends, co-workers

Nature's Nursery now has a one-hour informational event, called a "Fly-By," available to bring to your home, office, or club meeting! Fly-By's are a great way to introduce new people to the work we do — while having fun in a relaxed setting. We begin the hour with refreshments and a mix-and-mingle, followed by a brief presentation about who we are and what we do (yes, we bring an animal or two!), and closing with a short video.

Fly-By's can be customized for large groups or small, and can fit into an office lunch hour, a monthly club meeting, or just a group of friends getting together in your home. And no, they are NOT fundraisers! No one will be asked for a donation at your event! They are simply a way for us to get the word out about our mission, and give people an opportunity to see if they would like to become further involved with us — as members, donors or volunteers.

For more information about hosting a Fly-By, please call Paula Massey at 419-882-7055.

to maintain its level of service and commitment to its mission because of the support we receive from our members and donors.

So, if you are looking for an investment that will make a bank's interest rate pale by comparison, consider Nature's Nursery. Your money goes to work right away. Nearly 86% of our income directly supports programs and services.

Giving Made Simple

Here are simple and easy ways you can help Nature's Nursery.

Memorial Gifts: The "Giving New Life" memorial gift program provides a chance to make a gift to Nature's Nursery in the name of a deceased loved one or pet through the release of a rehabilitated animal.

Kroger Community Rewards: Sign up and support us every time you purchase groceries or gasoline at Kroger. Visit krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the instructions. Our membership number is 83785. Your shopper card will be linked to Nature's Nursery as your charity of choice and we receive a donation based on your purchases. Encourage others to sign up too!

Harold Roe Prints: Purchase a limited



Harold Roe prints are available for purchase by calling the Center or visiting our website.

edition peregrine falcon print drawn by renowned artist Harold Roe. The pencil drawing is only \$50 and a portion of the proceeds benefits our programs.

Donation Boxes: Do you own a retail business or know someone who does? Nature's Nursery donation boxes can be prominently displayed near the cash register. Spare change adds up fast!

Corporate Memberships: Has your business started "green" policies and programs to promote a sustainable environment? Consider a corporate membership that supports our mission that helps maintain the delicate balance of our local ecology. Earn a tax deduction for your company that's good for your bottom line and the environment!

Thanks for your continuing interest in and support of Nature's Nursery.

Thank you so much

Katherine Thompson made a donation in honor of her nephews, **William Aldrin Viehauser** and **Noah Walker Viehauser**.

The following memorial donations have recently been received:

Shannon and Cindy Richards in memory of **Jeffrey Scott Edgington**.

Jim and Carol Roberts in memory of **Ed Lawton**.

Tom & Penny Carson in memory of **Regine Ewert**.

Teri Beaupry and Marge Dembowski in memory of **Linda Munger**.

Linda Bancer in memory of **Julie Dalton's dog, Sunny**.

We are grateful to the following businesses for hosting our donation canisters:

In Touch Therapy
Pet Co.
Pet Supplies Plus
St. Francis Veterinary Hospital
Village Pizza (Whitehouse)
Wild Birds Unlimited



Nature's Nursery Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation
and Conservation Education
PO Box 2395
Whitehouse, OH 43571

www.natures-nursery.org



Printed on recycled paper



Nature's Nursery is a member of Northwest Ohio Community Shares (NOCS), a self-governed federation of 20+ local nonprofit organizations that raises funds through workplace giving

campaigns. To learn how your employer or business can participate in NOCS' annual campaign, call Northwest Ohio Community Shares at 419-243-6637. You'll not only help Nature's Nursery, you'll be offering your employees real choice in workplace giving, while making our community a better place to live.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - from page 1

The Broad-winged Hawk migrates from this area to South America beginning in late September or early October. They return to nest beginning in April through May. Broad-wings are not as common in Northwest Ohio as Red-tailed Hawks, but are very noticeable during migration periods because they flock in large numbers.

If the hawk proves this spring that it can catch mice in the flight cage, it will receive an identification band and be released. If not, it will likely be kept by Nature's Nursery and used for education programs. Either way, the hawk has received a new lease on life thanks to a good Samaritan and the safe haven and tender care provided by Nature's Nursery.

Nature's Nursery Board of Trustees 2010

President

Paula Massey

V.P. of Development

Becky Kasperzak

V.P. of Education

Renay Scott, PhD

Secretary

Chris Riddle

Treasurer

Scott Maiberger, CPA

Members

Eric Dokurno

Denise Gehring

Stan Massey

Katie McKibben

Nick Nigro

Daniel Peffley

Steve Wagener

Honorary Member

Mike Shields, DVM

Nature's Nursery News is a quarterly publication for members of Nature's Nursery Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation Education, a non-profit organization in Whitehouse, OH; 419-877-0060.

Printing is made possible by *The Lima News*.