

On the Horizon



Winter/Spring 2023 Edition

www.horizonwings.org

Welcome to Horizon Wings' semi-annual newsletter – On the Horizon. We would like to keep you informed of happenings, events, and news going on at Horizon Wings.

Our mission at Horizon Wings is to rehabilitate birds of prey for release into the wild, in order to maintain their population and to educate the community to enhance awareness of the environment. It is our hope by doing this that we reach people of all ages and create the desire in them to help preserve our natural world.

Annual Spring Open House captivates visitors with raptors and more....



Warm, sunny weather offered the perfect backdrop for Horizon Wings' annual Spring Open House, held Saturday, May 13. Director and founder Mary-Beth Kaeser, Horizon Wings board members, and more than twenty volunteers welcomed over 300 visitors to the annual educational and fundraising event. Visitors came to meet the resident raptors and corvids, watch demonstrations, enter the drawing for an enticing array of gift baskets, and enjoy yummy refreshments. The music of popular singer and guitarist Bruce John greeted visitors as the event opened.

Activities throughout the day included an owl program featuring Great-Horned owl Oscar, Barred Owl Asha, and Oakley and Jade, red and gray Screech Owls. A presentation by falconer Dave Stevens with his Red-Tailed Hawk, Jack, introduced visitors to the fascinating world of falconry. A raptor program followed, highlighting Bald Eagle Atka, Peregrine Falcon Athena, and Red-Shouldered hawk Cypress.



Annual Spring Open House (continued...)

Oakley with handler Maggie & Jade with handler Dave



Brian Kleinman from Riverside Reptiles with Lotus

Special guests were Brian Kleinman of Riverside Reptiles, who captivated visitors with Burmese python Lotus; Bill Lefferts and Pam Lefferts of Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue, who brought opossum Mango and a litter of rescued baby opossums, and bat rehabilitator Maureen Heitman.



Pam Lefferts from Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue with rescued baby

Many visitors entered the gift basket drawing, which included gardening, owl-themed, and kids' activity baskets, an earring collection, and a gardening tote filled with soap, candles, seeds, and a wreath of nesting material. Available for a donation were Horizon Wings T-shirts, tote bags, water bottles, calendars, and notebooks, along with beautiful notecards featuring Horizon Wings' birds and reusable shopping bags.

Volunteers at the education table help young visitors dissect owl pellets and check out the display of wings, talons, and eggs. At the kids' activity tables, young visitors planted sunflower, pumpkin, and bean seeds in ice cream cones (biodegradable starter pots!) and showed their artistic flair in etching designs on colorful animal-shaped scratch-off cards. The refreshment table offered free goodies to keep visitors going, including brownies, cookies, chili, and coffee. Thank you to all who helped us welcome spring at Horizon Wings. With your generous support, we're able to continue our mission of rehabilitating birds of prey for release in the wild, caring for our ambassador birds, and educating the public about birds of prey.



Our next onsite event will be the annual fall Owl Prowl, scheduled for Saturday, October 14th. We hope you'll join us! Follow us on Facebook to keep up with what's going on at Horizon Wings.

Written by Sara Putnam

2023 Rehabilitation



Red-Tailed fledgling

To date we have taken in 33 birds for rehabilitation. Unfortunately, our release rate has been very low. Of the 33 birds, 27 were injured in motor vehicle collisions, 6 were nestlings/fledglings, and one was poisoned by rodenticide. Two fledglings are pending release, and 3 passed due to their injuries. One Red-Tailed Hawk fledgling was reunited with her family. The motor vehicle strikes caused severe injuries, resulting in death or the need for humane euthanasia in 23 of the 27 birds struck.

While this is extremely disheartening, we will continue to care for these birds to the best of our ability, while asking people to please slow down and stop littering! Trash on our roadsides attracts rodents, which in turn attracts our raptors. Raptors are opportunistic, scavenging roadkill to feed themselves and their young.

Thank you to Tufts Wildlife Clinic, Fenton River North, Bolton Veterinary Hospital, and Northeast Bird Clinic for their help in providing the best medical care for our raptor patients.

Written by Mary-Beth Kaeser



Broad Wing Hawk

Wish List

- Lumber (Plywood, 2x4s, 2x6s)
- Office supplies (Postage stamps, paper, envelopes, card stock)
- Roofing material
- Gift cards for building supplies
- Hardware (deck screws, rafter hangers, hinges, hasps)
- Hardware cloth
- Pea stone for aviary flooring
- Disposable vinyl cleaning gloves
- Zip-Loc freezer bags
- Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/genericItemsPage/2QDT9KR9W3EX2?ref=wl_share)
- Cleaning supplies (paper towels, bleach, Simple Green)

Please support your local merchants whenever possible!

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Did you know? Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education is on



www.horizonwings.org

Visit us for current news, photos, and information on upcoming programs.