



Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education
Habitat and Species Conservation

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation *Wildlife Tales*

Volume I, Issue I

December 2006

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation is the largest privately funded wildlife rehabilitation center in the Chicago area having helped over 2,000 animals during 2006. Flint Creek Wildlife receives no government funding and relies strictly on private donations and fundraising efforts to support its ongoing work. Please help support Flint Creek Wildlife through its raffle and sponsorship drive. Consider giving both as gifts during the upcoming holiday season.

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Photos of Windy and Barry courtesy of Wild at Heart Rehabilitation

All other photos courtesy of Phil Hampel of Game Time Images.

Flint Creek Wildlife Announces Car Raffle

Need a great gift for the person that has everything? Know someone in desperate need of a car? Please consider buying a ticket to our car raffle and spreading the word to your neighbors and friends to do the same. The Grand Prize is a 2007 Ford Escape Hybrid or \$25,000 cash, Second Prize is \$2,500 cash and Third Prize is \$1,000 cash. Tickets are \$75 each or 3/\$200. You can even buy a ticket with friends and then split the cash prize!

Tickets may be purchased on-line by visiting our website at www.flintcreekwildlife.org or via mail by completing the below order form. Additional forms may be downloaded from our website raffle page.

Tickets sales will be limited to 1,750 tickets, so purchase early to ensure availability. The drawing will be held on February 10, 2007. Entrants need not be present to win.



The success of our Car Raffle, our single largest fundraising event of the year, is critical both to our continued operations as well as our ability to service our ever-growing demand. We will help over 2,000 animals during 2006 and must raise money so that we can continue our mission of helping animals in 2007. At Flint Creek Wildlife, we

pride ourselves on providing the best possible care to each animal that is admitted to our center. Our food bill alone exceeds \$100 per day! Then add in the costs of medical care, medical equipment, cleaning and caging...imagine what it costs to build a 50 foot flight chamber necessary to rehabilitate injured hawks, owls and falcons! Unfortunately, providing quality care for each animal is expensive and, since we get no government funding, this care is paid for solely through donations and private fundraising events like this raffle.

Please let us know if you own a business and are willing to display our posters or if you are willing to take posters to your local businesses.

Remember...by helping us with the raffle, you help us help the animals.

To purchase tickets, complete the order form below and mail completed form, along with your check or money order to: Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation; 117 S. Cook Street, #145; Barrington, Illinois 60010 or purchase tickets on-line at www.flintcreekwildlife.org. Completed order must be received by February 8, 2007 at 5:00 pm or before 1,750 tickets are sold.

I'll take ___ Tickets at \$75/each ___ Tickets at 3/\$200

I have enclosed a check or money order for ___ Tickets at \$_____

I understand that you will fill out my stubs, enter me in the Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation 2006 Car Raffle and send me my raffle receipt(s) by mail.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (____) _____ Email _____

Entrants must be legal residents of Illinois and must be 18 years of age by February 10, 2007. Time and location of drawing to be announced on our web site. Entrants need not be present to win. Call (847)602-0628 to request a copy of the complete rules.

Flint Creek Wildlife Opens Downtown Satellite Location

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation opened a downtown satellite location at Northerly Island, the former Meig's Field. Flint Creek Wildlife's Northerly Island facility, the only rehabilitation center of its kind in Chicago, has already treated over 1,000 birds since its April 1 opening.

The rehabilitation center, located on the scenic shores of Lake Michigan and just minutes from the Chicago Loop, not only offers convenience for Chicago residents, building managers and rescue organizations but also allows birds to receive prompt medical care, thus improving their chances of survival.

Presently, the facility serves as a triage center with Barrington-based rehabilitators driving to Northerly most

mornings in order to treat birds that are then either released following treatment or transferred back to Barrington later that day where they receive any requisite advanced or long-term care.

The limited hours of operation have resulted in some challenges. Injured birds cannot typically wait until the next morning for treatment so many Chicago residents end up driving to Barrington if they missed the small window of opportunity during which Barrington rehabbers are covering the downtown location.

Flint Creek's plans for the facility include expanding its services through the hiring of full-time federally licensed wildlife rehabilitators. This will allow Flint Creek to establish set hours of opera-

tion, thus decreasing the number of Chicago residents that need to journey to Barrington, and establish an educational program that will teach Chicago-area residents about issues such as wildlife and habitat conservation. Flint Creek will also equip the facility with necessary equipment and supplies to allow treatment of all types of injuries.

Flint Creek Wildlife's Northerly Island location is the result of the foresight and hard work of a number of people. Our sincere thanks to the Chicago Park District for donating the space at Northerly Island. We also thank Bob O'Neill of the Grant Conservancy and Robbie Hunsinger, founder of Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, for their early involvement and support in this project.

Animals are accepted by appointment only at both our Barrington and Northerly Island locations. Call (847)602-0628 if you've found an injured or orphaned animal.

If you missed us on Animal Planet's Backyard Habitat you can catch the next air date on December 21, 2006 at 8:00 am.

Flint Creek Wildlife In the Media

We've been fortunate to have some great media coverage this year—everything from a feature in the Chicago Tribune Magazine to Animal Planet. Below is a partial list of the coverage we've received.

Check out our website for a full list, including links. We encourage you to read some of these wonderful articles and see some of these wonderful news reports and programs. If you've missed them, you've

missed some great photos and great reporting! Our thanks to everyone from the media with whom we worked over the last year for helping us tell our story!

Animal Planet Backyard Habitat November and December 2006 ("Green Herons and Muskrats")
 Barrington Quintessential November/December 2006 ("Win a car in Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation's Raffle" and "Natural volunteers")
 WTTW Channel 11 Chicago Tonight November 1, 2006 ("Bird hospital")
 WGN News at 9 October 11, 2006 ("Cover story")
 Chicago Tribune October 10, 2006 ("Birds have friends when skyline is enemy")
 Chicago Sun-Times October 10, 2006 ("Rehab center a beacon of hope: sanctuary gets feathered friends back on their wings")
 Chicago Tribune Magazine August 13, 2006 ("Wildlife 911")
 Conscious Choice Magazine June 2006 ("Bird rehab")
 iTunes Podcast to Frank Mathie Report May 19, 2006
 ABC7 Frank Mathie Report May 19, 2006 ("Northerly Island bird hospital treats injured avians")

Coyote Given Up for Dead

Her lifeless body was lying in the middle of Route 72 with cars traveling 50+ MPH swerving around her. After lying there for an unknown amount of time, she was finally picked up by a government official who believed that she was road kill. Only much closer examination revealed that she was truly still barely alive.

Her would-be salvager turned rescuer called us and explained that she'd been driving around with a coyote in her truck for the last hour and a half—all the while the coyote grasped for

life. She was relieved to have finally found someone capable of providing emergency aide.

When the coyote arrived at our Barrington facility, she was lying prone with eyes open but barely conscious. We immediately started medical treatment in order to stabilize her condition.

Her first days were rough with around-the-clock medical care that included treatments for shock, pain and inflammation. Since we had to keep the adult coyote in an outside enclosure,

we provided her with ample heat and even pre-warmed her IV fluids with a fluid warmer.

The lucky girl is now recovering from a broken leg, eating well and grateful to have food provided for her during a time when she would be unable to hunt on her own. Her leg is a small injury compared to what could have been a far more serious and permanent end. She is expected to fully recover from her injuries and be released in January or February.



Coyote currently in rehabilitation at Flint Creek Wildlife's Barrington facility. (Note the donated fur coat in the background!)

American Kestrels Find Permanent Home at Educational Facility

When they arrived, both birds had what are traditionally considered non-releasable injuries. Still, consistent with our policy, rather than euthanize them we decided to give them every opportunity to heal in the hopes that they would fly again.

The first to arrive was an adult male Kestrel that was found in Aurora with a dislocated wrist (part of the wing). Although his wing healed and he is flight-capable, he is no longer has the

agility necessary to hunt.

The second bird, a juvenile female Kestrel, also sustained a wrist injury when she was struck by a vehicle. Her wing appeared to heal completely, but she has never flown.

Both birds got a second chance at life recently when they went to their new home at Wild at Heart Rehabilitation in North Carolina. Now known as Barry (short for Barrington) and

Windy (for our infamous Windy City), they will help teach the public about American Kestrels as a species and bird conservation issues.

Their new facility couldn't be happier with them. They both have adjusted well to life as educational birds.

We wish them well in their new lives. Good luck Barry. Good luck Windy. And thanks Beth for taking good care of them.



Endangered American Bitterns Get Needed Critical Care

Even WE were surprised to have more than one American Bittern at the same time.

Although Illinois is technically part of the breeding territory for the American Bittern, it is very uncommon to see them here since they are an endangered species in Illinois. More commonly, they are seen in Illinois during spring and fall migrations.

The American Bittern is a se-

cretive bird that frequents wetlands—particularly those that have tall reeds and grasses. They are a high-stress species and can be a challenge in a rehabilitation setting especially when frequent handling is required for critical care.

One of the Bitterns will be over-wintering with us while he recovers from a broken leg that required surgery. He is not eating entirely on his own and still requires quite intensive

care. He also has two additional surgeries ahead of him to remove the pins that are mending his broken bones. We hope to release him in April when Bitterns are migrating through the Chicago area.

The other Bittern recovered completely from his injuries and was released this fall in a spectacular display of the beauty of nature.

Good luck, beautiful.





Charlie's release.

If you find an injured or orphaned animal, place it in a box, cover the box and place the box in a quiet, dark location. Do not feed or give the animal water. Call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for further instructions.



Champion preparing for winter.

Choo-Choo Charlie Beats Train and Makes Full Recovery

Sometimes an animal's will to live impacts us permanently. Please join us on Charlie's journey.

Charlie was banded in Wisconsin in 2005. She then made her way south along the shores of Lake Michigan until she flew in front of a Skokie Swift train. Her devastating injuries included a broken pelvis, abdominal bruising so severe that she was BLACK and all organs compressed up against her heart from impact. She was not able to stand, defecate or eat.

With intensive care, Charlie

began to improve. Still, after two weeks, she required tube feeding every four hours around the clock. Finally, after several weeks, she was able to digest small bits of solid food followed eventually by whole food. Charlie learned to stand again then grasp with her feet. Months later she regained her ability to fly and hunt. After six months, she showed no signs of having ever been injured.

We saw in Charlie that special something—a will to live that is sometimes subtle yet screams out to us at the same time. We wanted to help her fight for life.

It was bittersweet when Charlie left us. She taught us much and we knew full well that she had truly been given a second chance. Good luck, Charlie.



Unusual Visitor Makes Barrington Feel Like Florida

"I just picked up a Pelican from the pier by Montrose Harbor." Had those words been uttered by almost anyone other than one of our wonderful volunteers, I probably would have thought that this was another case of mistaken identity....

Sometimes it seems like those words changed everything this winter making Barrington feel like the tropics. We can also say that we never expected to have an American White Pelican admitted into rehab.

Run down by an upper-



respiratory infection and a

severe case of subcutaneous emphysema, this Pelican grounded right in downtown Chicago. It's hard to say why this Pelican was passing through Chicago which is a little unusual for American White Pelican migratory patterns, but pass through Chicago he did!

Now figuratively eating us out house and home at 8 pounds of fish per day, he has improved significantly. We expect to relocate him to a flock of White Pelicans once he is fully recovered.

Squirrel Increases Size Fifty-fold

If you think it sounds like a heading from Ripley's Believe It or Not or the National Enquirer, rest assured that this headline is simply the truth about a pinkie squirrel growing into a healthy adult.

Champion arrived as a pinkie squirrel, hairless with pink skin and eyes closed. His temporary and well-intentioned care giver had unfortunately fed both

Champion and his sister and had aspirated them both (got food into their lungs, which is extremely common when fed by untrained people). Champion already had pneumonia but his sister was in even worse shape and she died that same day just shortly after arrival.

We started Champion on an aggressive course of antibiotics

combined with controlled heat and humidity in one of our incubators, subcutaneous fluids and—once he was more stable—feedings every two hours around the clock. Gradually feedings tapered off and several months later Champion was weaned and growing into a handsome juvenile squirrel. Champion has been released and appears to be getting quite fat in preparation for winter!

Sponsorship Drive

You can reaffirm your commitment to help wildlife by becoming an annual Flint Creek Wildlife sponsor. Through sponsorship, you are entitled to certain benefits such as great Flint Creek merchandise, newsletters and updates, and exclusive invitations to view releases of fully rehabilitated animals. At

the same time, your support allows us to continue to help the animals.

Consider giving a sponsorship as a gift to your spouse, friend, sibling, child or neighbor. Our newsletter is a great way to teach a child about compassion for animals or to simply make

an animal lover's day!

Sponsorship levels and sponsor benefits are described below. Select the level that best meets your needs.

Thank you, as always, for your support. We couldn't help the animals without you.

Sponsorships make a great holiday gift. They may be purchased on-line at our website or by completing the sponsorship form below.

Individual Sponsorship Levels

Fawn Level —\$25 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter



Squirrel Level —\$50 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter
Bi-weekly Email Update
Flint Creek Wildlife Magnet



Fox Level —\$100 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter
Bi-weekly Email Update
Flint Creek Wildlife Magnet
Flint Creek Wildlife T-shirt



Hawk Level —\$250 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter
Bi-weekly Email Update
Flint Creek Wildlife Magnet
Flint Creek Wildlife Hooded Sweatshirt or Golf Shirt



Loon Level —\$500 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter
Bi-weekly Email Update
Flint Creek Wildlife Magnet
Flint Creek Wildlife Hooded Sweatshirt or Golf Shirt
Individual Invitation to Attend a Release



Falcon Level —\$1,000 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter
Bi-weekly Email Update
Flint Creek Wildlife Magnet
Flint Creek Wildlife Hooded Sweatshirt or Golf Shirt
Family Invitation to Attend a Release (up to six people)



To become a sponsor, complete the order form below and mail completed form, along with your check or money order to: Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation; 117 S. Cook Street, #145; Barrington, Illinois 60010 or purchase on-line at www.flintcreekwildlife.org.

I want to become a Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation sponsor at the indicated level. Enclosed is my check for \$____.

Fawn \$25 Fox \$100 Loon \$500
 Squirrel \$50 Hawk \$250 Falcon \$1,000

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (____) _____ Email _____

*Our sincere thanks to our corporate sponsors and donors:
Barrington Animal Hospital
Eye Care for Animals
Fusion Idea Lab
Niles Animal Hospital
Pizza Guy
Shedd Aquarium
Tin Man's Pub
Wild Bird Center Fox River Grove*

**Flint Creek
Wildlife
Rehabilitation's
growth (animals
treated each year)**

**2004—153
2005— 1,131
2006 (est.) -
2,000+**

Upcoming Events:

Annual Banquet—
Date and Location to Be
Announced

**Furry and Feathered
Baby Shower—**Date
and Location to be
Announced

Watch our website for
details

**If you find an
injured or
orphaned animal,
place it in a box,
cover the box and
place the box in a
quiet, dark
location. Do not
feed or give water
to the animal. Call
a licensed wildlife
rehabilitator for
further
instructions.**

Where Have All the Rehab Centers Gone??

In less than three years since accepting its first injured animal in 2004, Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation has quickly become the largest privately funded wildlife rehabilitation center in the Chicago area. This phenomenal growth has been fueled by the grave need for wildlife rehabilitation services in the Chicago area coupled with budget related closures of two publicly funded wildlife rehabilitation centers and capacity reductions at two other facilities. We've now also received news that another rehab center is moving out of

state which will create further strain on wildlife rehabilitation capacity.

Focusing only on the outright closures and relocation, we've lost annual wildlife rehabilitation capacity for over 1,000 animals this year alone. Funding bodies are closing publicly funded facilities like Trailside Nature Center in River Forest and Spring Brook Nature Center in Itasca leaving the few surviving facilities like Flint Creek to absorb lost capacity or leave the animals with no place to go.....

We have really stretched ourselves this year in an attempt to help the animals but we are still lacking much-needed capacity.

In order to plan for continued growth we must address two fundamental areas 1) developing new funding sources and 2) finding a new Barrington facility since growth is severely limited at our current location.

Only with proper planning will we be able to continue to address the needs of the community and ALL of its residents.

Wish List (visit our website for a full list)

Fleece Blankets
White paper towels
Antibacterial spray
Antibacterial wipes
KMR or Esbilac Powder
Eukanuba Kitten Chicken and Rice (dry)
Iams Kitten Chow (dry)
Fish
Pet carriers, all sizes
Stainless steel veterinary-style cages
Gazebos
Multimedia projector

Printing services
X-ray machine
Otoscope
Lead Testing Machine
Autoclave
Sports utility vehicle
Horse trailer
Cash (needed to cover operational costs)
Used ink-jet and laser-jet cartridges
Used cell phones
Used automobiles
Items for silent auction

Volunteering

As a private, not-for-profit organization, we rely on volunteers to accomplish a majority of our work. We simply couldn't do what we do without our dedicated volunteers.

Please visit our website for information regarding current volunteer opportunities or to download a volunteer application.



**“At moments
like this, I can
tell you why we
do what we do.”**

**Dawn Keller, Found-
er and President of
Flint Creek Wildlife
Rehabilitation**

American Bittern
returns to the wild

Images of Nature-Oakbrook & Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Are Teaming Up!

Stop into the Oakbrook gallery and pick up our new 2007 Calendars or our holiday collectible ornaments!



For every calendar and ornament sale, Images of Nature will donate one dollar to Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation!

As a special thank-you for taking part in giving to this charity you may bring in the coupon below for savings on your own Mangelsen image purchase.

THOMAS D. MANGELSEN'S IMAGES OF NATURE™

Good for \$50 off of any image purchase 14x20 or larger!



Please present coupon to take part in savings!
One coupon per order; not combined with any other offers.
Offer expires December 31, 2006
36 Oakbrook Center
Oak Brook, IL 60523
630-571-5704

You can help Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation by shopping through iGive.com. Simply sign up for iGive.com (it's free), designate Flint Creek Wildlife as your charity, and shop on-line through participating stores. For each dollar you spend, a percentage of your purchase will go to Flint Creek Wildlife. Stores include big names like Home Depot and Best Buy AND it costs you NOTHING!

Visit iGive.com or our website for more information.

Please consider donating items for our silent auction—visit our website for details

Check out our blog at www.flintcreekwildlife.org/blog and stay on top of important information. You can subscribe and automatically receive new updates via email.

CAR RAFFLE WIN A '07 FORD ESCAPE HYBRID OR \$25,000



For info, go to
flintcreekwildlife.org
**FLINT
CREEK
WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION**



Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation

*Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education
Habitat and Species Conservation*

**117 S. Cook Street, #145
Barrington, Illinois 60010
www.flintcreekwildlife.org
(847)602-0628**

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation is dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning fully rehabilitated wildlife to its natural habitat. Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation that relies strictly on public donations to support its life-saving work. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed under IRS regulations.

Please take a moment to read this newsletter and learn more about our organization and the animals we help.

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
AUTOCR
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FOX RIVER GROVE, IL
PERMIT NO. 7**