



### THE RAPTOR TRUST

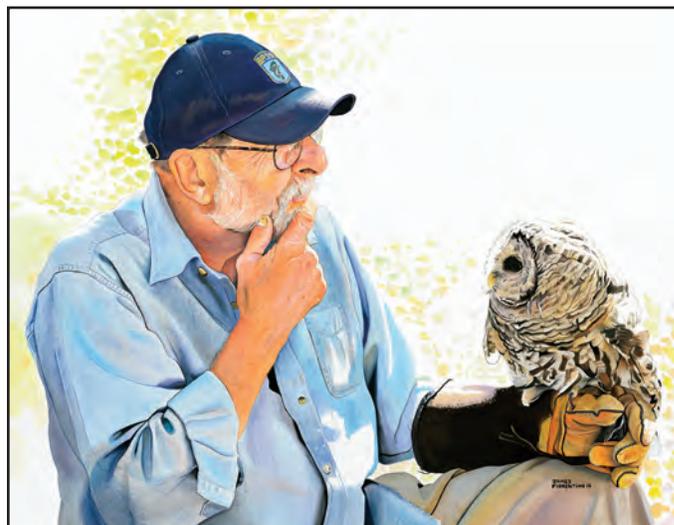
#### **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

by Chris Soucy

It has been a most unusual year, full of change, loss, healing and growth. In 2014 we lost our founder, Dr. Leonard J. Soucy, Jr. He had struggled for years with both asthma and heart disease and on June 11 he passed away. Len was a larger than life figure and one of the real first-generation wildlife rehabilitation advocates and practitioners. When he and Diane took in their very first feathered patients in the 1960s there were almost no medical protocols for wild birds, no examples to follow, no best practices, no leaders in the field. So, like he did throughout his entire life whenever he encountered a roadblock or identified a problem, he set about fixing it. With the support of his family and the early volunteers here at what was then the New Jersey Raptor Association, Len became one of the godfathers of wildlife rehab. He helped establish many of the early medical protocols and best practices. He shared his knowledge with anyone and everyone who would listen and became a mentor to hundreds of staff, interns and volunteers over the years. He was an inspiration to thousands, maybe tens of thousands of others who also cared about the fate of the earth's wild creatures. The Raptor Trust remains a vibrant, busy, wonderful organization committed to carrying out this mission Len set in motion. Not a day goes by when at least one staff member doesn't think, "What would Len do?" It will be a long time before we heal from this particular hurt, but we have been blessed to have had such a wonderful, inspirational leader.

The memorial service for Len was held in late June at the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts on the campus of Drew University in Madison, NJ. The service was attended by hundreds of friends, relatives, supporters, conservationists, Raptor Trust staff and volunteers, past and present. I think Len would have enjoyed the tributes given in his honor by some of his dearest colleagues and friends, and though there was no shortage of tears, the ceremony was also full of laughter, fond remembrances, bluegrass and gospel music as well as at least one can of Miller Lite. A fitting tribute indeed. The ceremony was filmed and is available for viewing on our website in a new memorial section.

I believe that the lasting legacy and the real "big picture" here is about education. We have taken in tens of



*James Fiorentino's beautiful watercolor portrait of Len Soucy (1932 - 2014)*

thousands of wild birds at The Raptor Trust and that work continues. It's a cornerstone of our mission. It's important environmental work. It is very much what we are known for and it is the foundation upon which our reputation is built. But what has had the most impact over the last 30 years? What will have the most impact in the next 30, or even 100 years? The answer to that question is, I think, the teaching that Len did and which The Raptor Trust continues to do. Every bird that has ever shown up here for help has come attached to a person. Sometimes those people are very knowledgeable about birds and wildlife in general – animal control officers, vets, Fish and Wildlife Service employees. Other times they are just concerned citizens, often youngsters, who care enough to try to find help for an animal in distress. Whether they come to one of our education department's many programs or just show up in the infirmary with a shoe box containing an injured bird, we have opportunities every day, both formal and informal, to impart some of what we have learned over the years about living in harmony with wild creatures, especially here in the crowded Northeast. When we light a spark in a young person's mind, when we answer a question, when we give people a chance to see an eagle up close and, as Len would have said, "really turn them on," we set the stage for all of those people to change the way they think and act regarding wildlife. Maybe they just say, "Wow, that was cool." But often they do more than that. They come back to volunteer. They donate. They bring their friends to see the birds here on their next visit. They put bird feeders and screech owl boxes in their backyards. They become more aware of the animals in their neighborhoods (even urban ones) and they become more involved in the stewardship of their own environments, no matter how small or local.

There's no way we can ever gauge just how many people Len and The Raptor Trust have helped "turn on" to wildlife. It would be a staggering number, I'm sure. And THAT is the stuff of an important and significant legacy, for sure.

To help ensure that this educational legacy continues – and grows – we have established The Leonard J. Soucy, Jr. Memorial Fund. The fund will enable us to expand the scope of the programs we offer. We have recently added a very popular early childhood program to our roster to help "turn on" even younger minds, and we are developing other new programs. We will be expanding our education staff in order to offer more programs throughout the year (especially in summer) and building more partnerships with other local environmental organizations. We hope you will consider donating to this fund to help us continue to be leaders in environmental education.

## **REHABILITATION**

2014 was the busiest year ever in our infirmary. We admitted 4192 birds and released 1683. Our release rate of just over 40% was a bit lower than our historical average release rate of 44%. The winter of 2013-2014 was a horrible winter, with temperatures below freezing, frozen water and snow cover for much longer than usual. Birds, and wildlife in general, had a hard time finding food, and as a result, more birds came to us in very bad shape and beyond help, no matter how hard we tried.

Just to get a sense of the scope and scale of wildlife rehabilitation in New Jersey, we requested records from the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection/Division of Fish and Wildlife which collects data from all licensed rehabbers in the state. Last year 15,205 animals were admitted to rehabilitation facilities here in the Garden State. That number includes not just birds, but mammals, reptiles and any animals for which the state provides a rehabilitation license. Of those 15,205 animals, The Raptor Trust handled 27.5% of them. Even more impressive (I think) is that of the 7,867 birds admitted to wildlife centers throughout the state, The Raptor Trust handled more than HALF of them: 53% to be exact. Those are some amazing numbers.

Just who came through our doors? The most common native bird we receive (almost every year) is the American robin (489 of them last year!) We also brought in 295 Mourning doves and 287 Mallard ducks. Common birds? Yes, of course. But also very important links in our local ecological chain and they receive the same care that we provide for any and all species.

That said, it is exciting when raptors come to us. We are unapologetic raptor lovers! In 2014 we took in 353 raptors of 18 different species: Red-tailed hawk (125), Bald eagle (1), Peregrine falcon (12), Northern harrier (1), Broad-winged hawk (9), Cooper's hawk (39), Red-shouldered hawk (13), Sharp-shinned hawk (2), American kes-

trel (29), Merlin (1), Osprey (6), Barred owl (4), Screech owl (62), Great Horned owl (18), Snowy owl (1), Black vulture (14), and Turkey vulture (16).

All included, we treated 154 different species of birds in 2014. Among some the less common species were an American bittern, a Brown creeper, both Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned night herons, a Horned lark, a Savannah sparrow, a Bay-breasted warbler, an Eastern wood peewee, a Red-breasted merganser and over 100 other species, all very interesting in their own ways, too. It's a wide variety of wildlife we see here and I think it's a testament to the variety of wildlife habitats that exist in NJ as well as to the dedicated citizens, volunteers and organizations that help bring them to us for medical care.



*Photo courtesy TRT Staff*

*This Red-breasted merganser was treated for minor injuries and then released along the Hudson River near the New Jersey/New York border*

## **WACKY WATER BIRDS**

by Kristi Ward

In 2014 we admitted some very interesting water birds including a Common merganser, a Red-breasted merganser (pictured above), a Bufflehead, an American black duck, a Common moorhen and a White-winged scoter. Many of these birds were found alongside roads. It is not uncommon for water birds to mistake a wet or icy road for an open body of water. They often sustain injuries when they crash-land on these hard surfaces. Fortunately this particular group of lucky patients were all able to be released back into the wild after a little winter stay at Hotel TRT.

## TRT AWARDS - A History of Excellence

All of us here know full well the impact Len had on the people (and animals) he touched directly and in the larger wildlife and environmental community overall. Whether personally handling and rehabilitating an injured bird, educating people informally through a casual conversation or formal presentation, through the many scientific papers and educational publications he authored or by cooperating with a state or federal agency on a research or conservation project, his legacy spread its wings far and wide. Not only was he personally recognized for his work by scores of organizations, but The Raptor Trust and many of the staff here who had been mentored by him have been presented with significant awards as well. Below is a sampling, far from complete, of just some of the awards Len, The Raptor Trust and its staff have received over the years.

- NJ Audubon Patricia Kane Education Award - 2014
- New Jersey Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators Lifetime Achievement Award - 2015
- Drew University, Honorary Doctor of Science degree - 1988
- US Fish and Wildlife Service, Certificate of Appreciation for cooperation during "Operation Goshawk," 1985
- National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, Lifetime Achievement Award - 1986
- Daughters of the American Revolution, Conservation Committee Award for Outstanding Achievement - 2006
- Humane Society of the United States - Certificate of Appreciation - 1985
- NJ Veterinary Foundation "Animal Hall of Fame, Len Soucy" - 2006
- NJ Veterinary Medical Association "Animal Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement, The Raptor Trust" - 2015
- NJ Environmental Lobby, Environmental Legacy Award - 2010
- US Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Quality Award - 1991
- NJ Monthly Magazine, NJ Pride Award - 1996
- Boy Scouts of America, Good Scout Award - 2003
- NYC Parks "State of the Parks" Award - 1999
- Conserve Wildlife Foundation "Women in Wildlife" Award, Cathy Malok - 2014

## ***PRIVILEGE***

by Cathy Malok

The Cambridge Dictionary's definition of the word privilege is "a special advantage or authority possessed by a particular person or group." Len Soucy taught us many things over the years, most importantly that being a wildlife rehabilitator is a privilege.

It is a job like no other. You are tasked with helping creatures that want no contact with you. Your proximity is stressful and your efforts are generally unappreciated by the patients. It can be frustrating and exhausting at times, but you see things that few people will ever see, and experience amazing interactions that stay with you for a lifetime.

Some of the patients are here only for a short time; they may recover quickly from whatever ailment afflicts them, often caused by human disruption to their otherwise wild lives. While their release is gratifying, it is soon forgotten in the hustle of caring for the new and remaining patients in your care. But some of the releases are hard won and many of the patients are here because their ability to fly has been compromised, forcing them to choose fight over flight, obeying their natural instincts.

The raptors we handle are equipped with some impressive hardware; their talons are to be avoided at all cost. Just when we think we are out of harm's way, their second

line of defense, the beak, can leave a lasting impression. I remember a cormorant who managed to draw blood from several of us before his release, glaring at us defiantly with two of the most amazing eyes in the bird world. He was fearless and remarkable in his will to survive.

I think one of the most impressive things we experience is the recovery a bird goes through from a wing fracture. The full process is miraculous. They come in with little hope of survival without our assistance. At this point they may be subdued from shock, but are still by no means tame. They have to be handled many times while the fracture heals for examinations, pinnings, surgery, medication and more, never gracefully accepting our help.

As they progress they enter small outside enclosures for a period of time until they can be allowed to fly in the larger enclosures. This is where we see the magic begin to happen; they are tentative at first, their wings stiff from confinement, not understanding why, although they can fly up, they cannot fly away. We check them daily while we are feeding, and the changes in their behavior always make me smile. They can keep their distance now and dedicate themselves to their one goal: escape.

Finally the day for their release comes, injuries healed and flight restored. To call it gratifying seems to fall short; all the scratches, scrapes, and bites are forgotten as we watch them lift off to freedom. They may even reward us with a backward glance, but they were born to

live a wild life and there is no place for us in their world.

I will never forget the look on Len's face during releases. He would watch until they were out of sight, a huge smile on his face, then turn to us and say, "Ain't it cool?!" Len worked tirelessly to provide care for tens of thousands of birds that would have otherwise perished.

He built the Raptor Trust with the help of many volunteers and staff, but it was his personal drive and dedication that made the Trust what it is today. It is now our responsibility to continue to bring his legacy into the future.

Len Soucy was a rare breed of man. He saw an injustice and dedicated his whole life to correcting it. I am proud to have lived under his tutelage. I count myself blessed to be part of this privileged group and am determined to continue to work tirelessly, as Len did for so many years. I believe this matters, and I believe that Len is watching.

### ***A FITTING MEMORIAL***

In June of 2014 the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey passed a Joint Legislative Resolution in honor of Len Soucy, recognizing his efforts in wildlife conservation, rehabilitation, research and education, and acknowledging the work of The Raptor Trust. The resolution noted that "in all spheres of his life and work, Len Soucy established a model to emulate and set a standard of excellence toward which others might strive." Well said. We extend our most sincere thanks to the all of the members of the State Senate and General Assembly, in particular Assemblyman Bramnick, a long-time supporter of TRT. Our thanks also to Governor Thomas H. Kean, Sr. for presenting the resolution at the memorial service held last June.



*Photo courtesy of TRT Staff*

*"Sonny," our new education ambassador Barred owl*



*Photo courtesy of TRT Staff*

*Donna Pandolfino with Sonny, preparing him to greet the public*

### ***A RAY OF LIGHT***

by Debra Falanga

The newest member of our education staff is Sonny, a Barred owl. He arrived at the Trust in the summer of 2014, only a few weeks after Len Soucy passed away. We named him Sonny in honor of Len's childhood nickname. Sonny was sent to us July 1st, 2014 from Avian Haven, a rehab center in Maine. He arrived as a nestling at Avian Haven on May 25th, 2014 with a non-repairable compound humeral fracture. The injury to his wing limited his flight capability. Being so young, he was an excellent candidate for an education bird.

Sonny is a little goofy and a lot sweet. He brought a ray of light into an otherwise overwhelmingly sad time at the Trust. In order to best help him adapt to life as a bird that would be in contact with humans, he was initially kept in our infirmary where he saw our staff often and was exposed to human activity. Sonny made himself useful by regularly attacking the dreaded paper towel rolls whenever he came across one! When he matured a bit, he graduated to his own outdoor cage where the education staff continues to work with him, training him to visit schools and enrich programs for students throughout the state. Sonny brings us a lot of smiles and helps remind us every day of his namesake.

#### ***GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT***

Our most grateful thanks to Molly Mahoney of Martinsville, NJ (Girl Scout Troop #61182) and volunteer Bob Cruickshank for building, painting and installing new welcome signs on our kiosks in front of the infirmary and visitor parking lots. They look great and are helping people find their way every day. Molly earned her Gold Award for her participation in this project.

## ***PROJECT SNOWSTORM - MONOCACY'S STORY***

by Karyn Whitehurst and Chris Soucy

Late in the day on Friday, February 6th, 2015, a Snowy owl was admitted to TRT's hospital. It was our first Snowy owl patient of the 2014-2015 winter season. Fortunately her injuries were minor, but her story was very interesting indeed!

These large raptors are generally found living in flat, open, treeless areas, typically in the northern reaches of Alaska and Canada. When they migrate south of their natural range, which isn't all that unusual during winter months, they often establish themselves at airports where the large, flat and open expanses resemble their home territories and provide a seemingly good stop-over for them. However, Snowy owls can be dangerous to aircraft and consequently to people as well.

In this area, the United States Department of Agriculture/Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is responsible for trapping and relocating birds that pose a threat in and around airport property. This particular bird had been trapped at La Guardia Airport in Queens, NYC, and because we have cooperated with the USDA/Port Authority on several other public safety projects in the past, they knew that The Raptor Trust was a good place to bring this bird for a medical evaluation before being relocated.

When she arrived, we were surprised to learn that she had previously been fitted with a radio transmitter and that she was a part of the Project SNOWstorm study to learn more about the movements and behaviors of Snowy owls (<http://www.projectsnowstorm.org>). Pulitzer Prize nominated wildlife author and researcher Scott Weidensaul leads the Project SNOWstorm team. He was alerted to the news and we then learned about an interesting twist in this bird's story.

Dubbed "Monocacy" by Project SNOWstorm's researchers, this Snowy owl was banded and fitted with her transmitter in March of 2014 near Baltimore, MD. Although she was then relocated some 40 miles outside of the city, she came back to Baltimore and hung around the city center for nearly two weeks. A problem with the transmitter unfortunately occurred, and when it stopped sending updates, Monocacy fell off the Project SNOWstorm map for nearly 11 months.

And so, in February of 2015, Monocacy was back and in the care of The Raptor Trust. Luckily, she had only a minor abrasion on one of her wings which was expected to heal quickly. TRT's dedicated veterinarian, Dr. Andrew Major, gave her an otherwise clean bill of health. Before she left our care she was outfitted with a new transmitter backpack. Dr. Erica Miller and Scott Weidensaul from Project SNOWstorm arrived at TRT on February 10th to replace the faulty transmitter, and began making plans to give this very interesting owl a second chance to be a part of this groundbreaking research study.

This third-year, female Snowy owl was transported by USDA staff to a release location on the eastern end of Long Island, well away from any airports and city centers. What did she do? She headed right back to an airport. Within days, Monocacy's transmitter beeped in with a signal from her new hangout: Bayonne, NJ, near Newark Liberty Airport. While Monocacy seemed to love the city life, she did not like her radio transmitter at all. Just a few weeks after her re-release, a man out walking his dog near Bayonne found the transmitter backpack on the ground next to the remains of a rabbit that we suspect was one of the owl's recent meals. There was no sign of owl feathers nearby and no reason to assume anything had happened to Monocacy, other than that she got her transmitter off somehow. As spring and summer unfold, we hope that she will head north to the tundra to meet with the rest of her clan. With her penchant for urban hangouts, it wouldn't surprise us at all if we encounter her again next winter.



*Photo courtesy of TRT Staff*

*Cleared for release and ready to be outfitted  
with a new transmitter*



*Photo courtesy of Port Authority of NY & NJ*

*The big release day on Long Island*



*Photo courtesy TRT Staff*

*Summer intern Linnea Smiley releases a Kestrel*

## **TRT HISTORICAL REHAB DATA**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ADMIT TOTAL</b>	<b>RELEASED</b>
2014	4192	1683
2013	3509	1327
2012	4148	1735
2011	3556	1644
2010	3888	1626
2009	3577	1330
2005	3384	1446
2004	3355	1421
2000	3163	1495
1999	3101	1532
1995	3219	1663
1994	3389	1655
1990	2268	1021
1989	2395	1014
1987	1485	704
1986	1123	503
1984	704	341
Years prior to incorporation of TRT		
1976 - 1983	1015	583

## **EDUCATION NEWS - NEW STAFF, NEW PROGRAMS**

by Donna Pandolfino

One of the The Raptor Trust's primary missions is to educate people about wild birds, especially birds of prey. On-site and outreach educational programs focusing on the natural history of raptors are presented to groups of all ages throughout the year.

We offer a variety of educational programs for groups six years old and up. Visit our website for descriptions of the programs.

We now offer programs for pre-k and kindergarten students. Our "Owls Are a Hoot" program is a fun, interactive, 30 to 40 minute program during which children learn about owls' nighttime sounds and senses and are introduced to a live owl.

This year we are also introducing a new program for pre-k and kindergarten students called "Fantastic Flying Falcons." This fast-paced 30 to 40 minute program will focus on falcons' amazing hunting and flying abilities and their habitats. Students will be introduced to a live falcon.

As Director of Education, I am very happy to welcome two new members to the education team. Karyn Whitehurst and Shari Stern have both been interns, volunteers and infirmary staff, and now contribute their talents to our education team. Their enthusiasm and knowledge will help send The Raptor Trust's message of awareness, respect and compassion for our magnificent birds of prey.

### **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Eight terrific interns helped us through the busy summer of 2014, playing a large part in the raising of over 1700 baby birds. Conor Fitzgerald, Dhilati Oza, Emma Johnson, Jimmy Mona, Ken Lee, Linnea Smiley, Tara Tischio and Trevor Van Euewen made an excellent team and helped The Raptor Trust staff in all areas of our work. Conor, Jimmy, Ken and Trevor each lent a hand in re-building and repairing our North and South rehabilitation flight cages while Dhilati, Emma, Linnea and Tara helped improve our new computerized bird admit system. In addition to the daily tasks and help with organizational and administrative efforts, our interns also participated in weekly academic readings and discussion groups, delving into such topics as the ethics of wildlife rehabilitation and the natural histories of the bird species they helped us care for. All of our staff would like to thank our summer 2014 intern team. We would also like to acknowledge the following benefactors for their support of our internship program: Amanda Crosby Memorial Fund, Conger Family Internship Fund through Wheaton College, Investors Bank Foundation, Mary Johnston Memorial Fund, and The Albert Payson Terhune Foundation.

## 2014 VOLUNTEERS

by Kristi Ward

This year, I passed my volunteer wings over to our a new volunteer coordinator, Shari Stern, who I know will wear them proudly and care for them with a great deal of love and support. She brings a lot of enthusiasm and great new ideas to the program.

As for all those volunteers that I've recruited over the years, I will miss that part of my job. I'll be busy working in the infirmary, managing the gift shop, performing various administrative duties and tackling new projects, but none so rewarding as the volunteer program.

Our list of 2014 volunteers and the year they began with us is below. We want to thank everyone for their continued commitment. To contact the volunteer department, email Shari at [volunteers@theraptortrust.org](mailto:volunteers@theraptortrust.org).

2012 Jody Austin-Dominguez	2005 Pat Mallon
2009 Anna Autilio	2010 Ed Malok
2014 Jason Berman	2014 Ruth Martin
2010 Brian Billiams	2013 Jason Mast
2003 Nita Blatt	2010 Kate Matta
2012 Jennifer Books	2012 Andrew McAdam
2014 Julia Burak	2013 Emily Melander
2014 John Carroll	2014 Melissa Middleman
2006 Janet Cicariello-Cook	2014 Reece Minerley
2013 Ashley Cohen	2014 Peggy Monkemeier
2005 Bob Cruickshank	2002 Bill Most
2013 Melanie Dodds	2003 Muriel Mota
2006 Richard D'Orazio	2014 Mike Mosier
2008 Debra Falanga	2014 Lisa Nehring
2001 Barbara Feno	2002 Marion Philips
2014 Samantha Feldman	2014 Moses Pierre-Louis
2014 Johnny Fernandes	2014 Edward Pandolfino
2014 Conor Fitzgerald	2013 Keenan Porter
2009 Caroline Ford	2014 Katie Porth
2009 Barbara Franko	2013 Eileen Rudio
2013 Richard Gibney	2006 Alan Roberts
2014 Tucker Gold	2013 Sammayyah Rattley
2014 Trish Gradley	2011 John Roepke
2003 Bob Gray	2014 Emily Smith
1999 Stephen Gruber	2014 Kyle Smith
2014 Mike Gutwillig	1999 Danielle Sonye-Reising
2003 Fred Harvey	2014 Jessica Soucy
2007 Joan Hoeckele	2014 Clarice Souza
2014 Kris Hook	2012 Chassidy Speir
2000 Lisa Huguenin	2010 Chris Springle
2014 Amanda Hummel	2013 Susan Shumard
2014 Debrorah James	2013 Stephen Soares
2014 Russell Jackson	2013 Doris Stoner
2011 Tatiana Jenss	2013 Henry Symanski
2014 Nadia Kaplan	2014 Alison Tuday
2009 Robert Kaempfen	2009 Lucy Taggart
2014 Daniel Keller	2014 Mary Taggart
2013 Melissa Kraehenbuehl	2014 Harrison Vener
2013 Melanie Krebsner	2014 Vlad Vayzband
2013 Anamarie Lauren	2014 Robert Weber Jr.
2014 McKenna Lavoie	2014 Alex Wang
2014 Stephanie Lind	2014 Ryan Western
2012 Conor Maguire	2014 Rene Williams

## SPECIAL THANKS

This year we had several groups volunteer their time helping with painting, grounds maintenance and construction projects. We would like to thank these groups for all the work and hours they put in here at the Trust:

- AT&T Bedminster
- Chubb Insurance
- Bonnie Brae School
- Oak Knoll School

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We are in need of volunteers with **basic carpentry** knowledge to assist our maintenance team, Mike Adams and Ross Griswold. If you'd like to swing a hammer, please contact Shari Stern at [volunteers@theraptortrust.org](mailto:volunteers@theraptortrust.org).

We are still in need of **Receptionists** in our admitting office and **Gift Shop volunteers** during the week. If you are interested in these opportunities, please contact Kristi Ward at [kward@theraptortrust.org](mailto:kward@theraptortrust.org).

## DONATIONS

When you shop online, keep in mind these new, easy ways you can contribute to The Raptor Trust.

**AmazonSmile.com** will contribute 0.5% of your purchase price to The Raptor Trust. You can create an AmazonSmile account with your existing Amazon account information by logging into AmazonSmile.com and following the prompts to select The Raptor Trust as your favorite charitable organization.

**Goodsearch.com** - A contribution will be made to us with your everyday purchases by using Goodsearch and selecting The Raptor Trust as your charitable cause.

**Wish List and Donations of Supplies** - We've selected items that can be shipped directly to us through our **Amazon Wish List**. A link to our wish list can be found at the bottom of the donation page on our website.

You can also purchase some regular day-to-day supplies if you'd like to bring them to us on your next visit. A complete list can be found on our website on the donation page. Some of the items most needed for the busy spring and summer season are:

- gift cards to supermarkets, pet stores & Amazon
- paper towels
- unscented lotion-free tissues
- mixed bird seed

A direct link to **PayPal** can be found on our website along with credit card options for any monetary donation you would like to make. **Anything you are able to provide would be helpful and greatly appreciated by the staff and the birds.**

## **BOOK STORE AND GIFT SHOP**

**You can now shop TRT online!** We've created an online store with some of our most popular TRT branded items. Visit our website and link to **Shop TRT**. Purchase a gift for a friend or yourself.

The Wendy Shadwell Book Store and Gift Shop has recently seen some wonderful improvements. We've upgraded some of our displays and tables, designed and built by expert woodworker Bob Cruickshank. Our new maintenance team member, Ross Griswold, designed a hanging clothes rack to show off our new t-shirt styles. We've filled the shop with some great new items: gorgeous carved wooden bookmarks, photo coasters and more. We always carry birding books and log books, raptor books for every age and fun, unique bird-shaped jigsaw puzzles. The next time you're at the Trust please make a point to visit our store. It's worth a look and, as always, all proceeds from our on-site and online stores benefit the birds in our care.

## **PIGEONS GET A NEW HOME**

by Kristi Ward

We receive over 350 pigeons a year at our facility. Prior to going into their large pre-release flight cage, they are cared for in what we call "the pigeon barn." For decades we've used the same small barn, and while it served its purpose well, even old buildings eventually need some rehabilitation. We have relocated the pigeons to a newly renovated facility. Our staff, volunteers and pigeons are very grateful for the fancy new digs and we all thank our maintenance team and some very handy volunteers for breathing new life into an old building. We're pretty sure our pigeon patients are never going to want to leave, but the great outdoors is waiting for them when they're ready.



## **DIRECTOR'S THANKS**

by Chris Soucy

The Raptor Trust is a not-for-profit organization and a tax-exempt corporation under IRS 501(c)(3) regulations. We do not receive public funding of any kind. Our dollars come from private foundations, trusts, corporations and organizations, individual contributors and money we raise ourselves. To everyone who supplied us with financial assistance this past year, we thank you for caring about us and the birds. There's not enough room in this report to list all your names, but please know how much we appreciate your support.

A sincere thank you to the trustees, directors and managers of the following foundations and trusts for their generosity during 2014:

- Michele & Agnese Cestone Foundation
- Merck Office of Corporate Philanthropy
- Conger Family Foundation
- Wildwood Foundation
- Melza M. & Frank T. Barr Foundation
- Grassmann Trust
- Clara L. D. Jeffery Charitable Trust
- Tyler Foundation
- Abbey K. Starr Charitable Trust
- Union Foundation
- Baker Street Trust
- Taussig Foundation
- Robert and Jane Engel Foundation
- Helen and William Mazer Foundation
- 3 B's Foundation
- C. R. Bard Foundation
- Ann E. Clark Foundation
- M. S. Worthington Foundation
- Testamentary Charitable Trust
- Scarlett Family Foundation
- Gelfand Family Foundation
- E. D. Foundation
- Community Foundation of NJ
- Vitarius Foundation
- Holt Charitable Foundation
- Duke Farms Foundation
- Frelinghuysen Foundation
- Albert Payson Terhune Foundation
- SuPau Family Trust
- Garrett Family Foundation
- Brundage Foundation
- Arnold A. Schwartz Foundation
- Bassett Foundation
- Investors Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
- Brady Family Foundation
- Gayda Family Foundation
- The Gurwin Foundation
- Druskin Family Foundation

- The Kean Foundation
- Prospect Foundation
- Brisgel Family Charitable Foundation
- Cookie Jar Foundation
- Gelfand Family Foundation
- Charles & Lucille King Family Foundation
- Prospect Foundation
- Angela Janes Foundation
- Jay R. Monroe Memorial Foundation
- Lawrence T. Quirk Family Foundation
- Tonzola Family Foundation
- Berlin Family Foundation
- Carver/Delaney Foundation
- McDonald Charitable Gift Fund
- ZPR Family Foundation

My sincere thanks to the following corporations and organizations for their generous support this past year:

- The O'Hara Project
- A&P Supermarket of Basking Ridge
- Kevin Eberle Photography
- Yoke DiGiorgio
- The Meyersville Inn
- David Burk/Benjamin Moore
- Millington Savings Bank
- Dan's Tree Care
- Mercer County Wildlife Center
- Woodlands Wildlife Refuge
- MoCoSoCoBirds.com
- PetFlow, Inc.
- Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research
- Fyke Nature Association
- Shelter Helpers on Wheels
- Ashleigh Scully Photography
- Laeger Metal Spinning Co., Inc.
- Bergen County Audubon Society
- The Stirling Hotel
- Garden Club of Montville
- Yardville Supply Company
- Red Hook Management
- ShopRite of Stirling
- Ludlow Heating and Cooling Co.
- Raccoon Ridge Raptors
- Great Swamp Greenhouses
- Spheres Web Design
- Jaeger Lumber
- EM United Welding & Fabrication
- Ace/Twill, Inc.
- Angel Tails, Inc.
- Animal Eyes of NJ, Dr. Michael Brown
- Basking Ridge Garden Club
- Morris Tap and Grill
- The Nature Club

- Franklin Lakes Animal Hospital
- West Chester Bird Club
- Congregation B'Nai Israel
- Bernardsville Garden Club
- Rotary Club of the Mendhams
- Town and Country Garden Club of Chatham
- Garden Club of Watchung
- Temple Emmanuel El of Westfield
- Russell Marketing Research
- Craftsmen Photo Lithographers
- Long Hill Township Free Public Library
- Dorsi's Pharmacy
- New Jersey Assoc. of Wildlife Rehabilitators
- Washington Crossing Audubon Society
- Wayne Tile Company
- Country Child Care
- Whole Earth Center
- Morris County Chamber of Commerce
- All State Legal
- New York City Audubon
- Free and Accepted Masons of NJ
- Lacquerite
- The Seeing Eye
- Meyersville Veterinary Group

## Our 2014 Trustees:

William F. Conger  
 Andrew Major, VMD  
 Lynne Combs  
 James F. Diverio  
 Diane Soucy  
 Christopher Soucy

James Fiorentino  
 Marion Philips  
 Nancy Miller-Rich  
 Barbara Franko  
 Gregory Tusar



*A family of four Eastern meadowlarks were raised from nestlings here at TRT. When fully grown, they were released in the area they came from by staff member Liz Ennis*



*Photos courtesy TRT Staff*



Photo courtesy Rich Yasick

Chris Soucy, Dr. Major and Silvie the Screech owl accept an award on behalf of TRT at the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association Animal Hall of Fame Awards

### **MONEY MATTERS**

It's always busy here, but the last few years have been particularly busy. Three years in a row with damaging storms in October. Two of the worst winters on record back to back. Our highest numbers of bird patients ever two of the last three years. Those factors on top of our general operations have driven our expenses up. We have spent a good portion of the last three years in "emergency repair" mode, and while we have repaired a lot of damage, we're only just starting to get caught up with the regular maintenance we necessarily put aside over the last few years. Net result? We spent quite a bit of money last year. And in order to bring our facility up to the highest possible standards, we plan to tackle some significant renovations over the next few years. It's an expensive place to run, and last year we dipped into our piggy bank for the first time in order to get it done.

#### **INCOME (Cash Basis)**

Foundation grants .....	\$321,770.00
Individual, group & corporate contributions .....	268,009.00
Sales & investment income .....	71,455.00
Educational presentations .....	24,400.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>685,634.00</b>

#### **EXPENSES**

Salaries .....	366,723.00
Insurance & taxes .....	115,395.00
Vehicle maintenance .....	1,533.00
Facility maintenance, improvements & supplies .....	68,218.00
Bird food & medical supplies .....	43,620.00
Outside services & supplies .....	34,128.00
Printing & postage .....	8,741.00
Professional fees & payroll services .....	32,318.00
Utilities .....	26,736.00
Miscellaneous .....	4,496.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>701,908.00</b>

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO TRUSTEE EMERITUS, DR. ANDREW MAJOR**

Our most heartfelt thanks go to long-time TRT veterinarian and Board member, Dr. Andrew Major. Dr. Major has provided veterinary services at The Raptor Trust since 1982 and has performed thousands of surgeries here. It is no exaggeration to say that there are probably very few people on the planet who have operated on as many wild birds as he has. His work takes place mostly behind the scenes and out of the public eye, but he has been responsible for more of our success stories than we can count. After 30+ years as a Trustee, Dr. Major has decided to retire from active Board service, but we are delighted to announce that he has been named our very first Trustee Emeritus. Though he will be stepping back from his duties on the Board, he continues to lead our veterinary team, working directly with the birds in the operating room and consulting with our staff on medical matters. We wish to thank Dr. Major for his continued selfless service to TRT and to NJ's native wildlife.



Photo courtesy Len Soucy  
Founding TRT Trustee Bill Conger, circa 1995

### **FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

by Bill Conger

While still grieving Len Soucy's passing, The Raptor Trust is alive and doing well, as Len would have demanded. Thanks to Len & Diane's foresight we continue the mission they began in 1968 and which was formalized with The Raptor Trust's formation as a nonprofit in 1983. Succession is one of the most profound obstacles facing organizations like The Raptor Trust and, as you probably all know, we have been extraordinarily blessed to have Len & Diane's son Chris return to lead The Raptor Trust. The Board of Trustees has stepped up to help as well and we have recently begun the process of formulating a Long-Term Strategic Plan that would make our founder crow. (Okay, I know it's corny. But true!) Our first-rate staff is intact, the Board is involved and willing, and with your help and support The Raptor Trust will continue the mission Len so eloquently espoused.

Remember, whenever you see a hawk soaring or a bird flying, smile and think of Dr. Len Soucy. We do.

**IN CONCLUSION**

Sometimes things are so close, so right-in-front-of-your-face, it's hard to see them. I grew up here at what is now The Raptor Trust. The lessons I learned as a kid about how to live with the wildlife all around us, how to treat our planet with respect, how to help others to see the value in all living things, that all started happening before I could even walk and talk. And there was always some discussion about me coming back here someday to take over for my dad, but I guess I wasn't ready and needed to go do "other stuff" for a while. But while I was doing all that "other stuff" I always had a pair of binoculars in the car, I was always looking for hawks, and whatever businesses I worked in, whatever circle of friends I travelled in, I was always the guy who knew all about the birds.

Perhaps it was inevitable that I'd eventually come home to roost here again, and indeed here I am. And as well as I thought I knew and understood the place, the mission, the staff, our trustees, and my parents' network of animal crazy friends and colleagues, it still amazes me every day to see the dedication all around me.

Although my dad included the organization's philosophy in almost every annual report, here it is again, because it's still relevant and even with a change in leadership, it is still EXACTLY what we do, every day:

*We believe that all living things are important, and if, because of humans and human activities, injuries and injustices befall wild creatures, then humans have a responsibility to help heal the injuries and attempt to correct the injustices. And if, through education and understanding, many of the injuries and injustices can be prevented, so much the better for us all. And if, by living in this manner, The Raptor Trust can provide a humane example for others, then our efforts will truly have been of value.*

Thanks to all of you for your support, especially over the past very difficult 18 months. We could not do what we do without your help. As hard as we work, YOU are the reason we are able to keep going.

On behalf of the entire team here – Diane, Cathy, Kristi, Libby, Donna, Shari, Bethany, Mike, Dr. Major, Liz, Robert, Karyn, Fred, Barbara, Cailin, Debra, Jess, Ross and all of our interns and volunteers, we wish you the best.

Sincerely



Christopher D. Soucy, EdM  
Executive Director, The Raptor Trust

*For more information about The Raptor Trust, see our website at [www.theraptortrust.org](http://www.theraptortrust.org).*



Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Your tax-deductible donation supports the work of The Raptor Trust. Thank you.

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1390 White Bridge Road  
Millington, NJ 07946

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2015***

**Registration is required. For more information or to register, please call 908-647-1091**

### **Raptor Trust Tour Talks**

- \* Saturday, July 4 (possible hawk release to honor the day)
- \* Saturday, September 5

Join us for a guided tour to learn about the Trust and hear some of the fascinating stories of our fifty resident hawks and owls.

Meet at the Gift Shop. Tours at both 11a.m. and 1p.m.  
Adults \$10, children (12 years & under) \$5.

### **Saturday, October 10: “Focus on Raptors” Photo Event**

An opportunity for committed shutterbugs to take close-range photos of our educational hawks and owls in an outdoor setting.

2 – 4 p.m. at the Education Center.  
Adults only. Limit of 10 people. \$150.

### **Saturday, November 21: “Owls in the House” Nest Box Workshop**

Learn more about NJ’s owls, meet a live owl, and build an owl house for your own backyard. What a great holiday gift for family, friends, and for the owls.

2 – 4 p.m. at the Ed Center.

Ages 7 years – adult. \$10 per person (\$40 box kit optional).

### **Saturday, December 12: Great Swamp Owl Prowl**

Who's filling the winter nights with hoots and trills? We'll find out! Come meet a live owl during a brief indoor program and then venture into the Swamp to call and listen for wild owls.

7 – 10 p.m. Meet at the Ed Center.

Ages 15 years – adult. \$10 suggested donation.

**For event updates and directions, visit**

**[www.theraptortrust.org](http://www.theraptortrust.org)**

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