

White Pine News

Volume 14 Issue 1

March 2009

Bears, Let Them Be Wild

The recent tragic story in the news of the "tame" Chimpanzee that attacked a woman in Connecticut should make us all pause to rethink our behavior toward wild animals. Here in Wisconsin, the Black Bear is the largest of our wild animals. As the weather warms, our Black Bears will become active and we will be treated to the sight of mothers with cubs. Since the cubs are cute, and most of us have a special feeling for these "Teddy Bears", there will be a temptation to feed them, photograph them, and otherwise get close to them. Black Bears are instinctively shy and fearful of humans but will be hungry and somewhat more tolerant of human presence in the Spring. The best thing we can do for the welfare of the bears (as well as for



our own safety) is to **DO NOT FEED THE BEARS!** If you feed bears, either intentionally or accidentally (by letting them eat at your bird feeders or get at your pet food), you will destroy their fear of humans, which is their best protection. Bears that do not fear humans may become nuisance animals, at best, and may become a threat to your property, pets, children, or self. They are not naturally aggressive but if a 400 pound animal feels threatened by you or wants something you have and is not afraid of you, what do you think the outcome will be?

The remainder of this article is copied from an article by Mike Gappa printed in the July 1997 issue of White Pine News - the facts and precautions are still valid today.

Black bears have an interesting history as part of Wisconsin's natural heritage. In pre-colonial times, bears existed throughout the area which is now Wisconsin. Early settlers considered them "vermin" and a bane to their existence. As our pioneers cleared forests, they eliminated bears from most areas because of habitat changes and because they were thought to be a threat to man. Within the past three decades, circumstances have changed and bear numbers have steadily increased in Wisconsin, more specifically in west central Wisconsin. Increasing bear populations in northern Wisconsin, strict regulations, and the adaptability of bears have resulted in this increase of bears in west central Wisconsin.

Probably no other wildlife species can reflect the true feeling of "wilderness" better than the black bear! Encounters with bears are remembered and retold for years. It is refreshing to discover that human attitudes towards these secretive animals are changing as fast as our habitat is.

In order for bears to coexist with people, particularly for people who live near prime bear habitat, we have to learn how to live with them.

It's no surprise that many people don't even realize that they have bears nearby. This lack of awareness of a bear's presence can

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BENEFIT AUCTION

Mark your calendar.

You can help just by showing up. Please come to our Benefit Auction Thursday April 2, 2009 starting at 4 PM at the Eau Claire County Expo Center, 1 Block West of Highway 93 on Lorch Ave, Eau Claire. This is our most important fund raising event of the year. Our income is really down so it is extremely important for people to come to the auction. If you have never been to one of our auctions before I can assure you that you will have a good time. You may find some wonderful, unique treasures that you want for yourself or as a gift. It is a good opportunity to do your gift shopping and help the wildlife at the same time.

We have so many wonderful items and gift certificates that have been donated to help save the critters. We need people to bid on and buy the items to turn them into cash. The money from the auction goes into our depleted general fund enabling White Pine to continue to offer wildlife rescue & rehabilitation services, educational opportunities and wildlife advice. If you can't come to the auction, please consider sending a donation.

Donations are tax deductible.

See the list of sponsors and donations on our web site at

www.whitepinewildlife.org

Calendar of Events

Apr 2 2009 4 PM **Benefit Auction Eau Claire Co. Expo Center/ 4-H Fairgrounds**

1 blk W of Hwy 93 on Lorch Ave.
Eau Claire

May, June, July Baby Season

Aug 27, 28, 29 10 AM - 6 PM **Save the Critters Sale Eau Claire Co. Expo Center/ 4-H Fairgrounds**

1 blk W of Hwy 93 on Lorch Ave.
Eau Claire

Sep 10 5 PM - 8 PM **Spaghetti Feed VFW Post 305 1300 Starr Ave, Eau Claire**

Served by waiters and waitresses

Wild (Continued from page 1)

be the cause for certain problems. Black bears can become a nuisance and almost all conflicts between bears and humans occur as a result of the animal's search for food. ***Under no circumstances should anyone knowingly feed a bear.*** Bears will lose their instinctive fear of humans quite easily and can become nuisances as a result. Problems may vary from the simple presence of a bear, which can create fear, to actual property damage.

The best way to avoid trouble with bears is to avoid creating problem situations. If bears are in the area, make the effort to secure all garbage containers or deposit all edible wastes where bears cannot get them. The same goes for pet foods. If pet food is left outside, a bear will surely find it, eat it, and will come back looking for more. A common nuisance complaint in the spring involves bird feeders. Since food is scarce when bears emerge from their winter dens, the bird feeder becomes an attraction for them. If this happens, take the bird feeder away for a while.

Problems have also occurred when people, fascinated by a bear near their home or work place, have tossed food out the door so they can watch or photograph the animal. In these situations, the bear quickly loses its fear of humans, (fear of humans is a bear's most important survival mechanism). Once bears lose their fear of humans there is little incentive for them to avoid circumstances that bring the two together. Although some bears become used to people,



they are still wild animals no matter how "tame" they may appear. People must always be cautious around bears because they may react in unpredictable ways.

With more bears showing up around urban areas, better understanding of the animal can go a long way toward developing a relationship that allows both humans and bears to coexist peacefully.

It is against the law to possess a wild animal of any kind without proper permits, even if planning to let it go.

BEAR TIPS

Bears are attracted to people by such things as garbage, bird feeders, pet food, charcoal grills, fruit trees, and gardens. Once a bear finds food around your residence, it will likely return. Here are a few tips to minimize potential problems with bears:

- Never feed bears. They will associate people with food and might become a problem.
- Reduce garbage odors by rinsing food containers.
- Compost vegetable scraps.
- Keep meat scraps in the freezer until garbage day.
- Keep garbage cans in an enclosed building until pickup.
- Remove bird feeders in the spring. If you feed during the summer, remove feed, suet, and hummingbird feeders at night.
- Keep pet food inside.
- Keep barbecue grills and picnic tables clean.
- Use an electric fence to keep bears from beehives, sweetcorn, fruit trees, and berry patches.
- Barking dogs, bright lights, and noisemakers will sometimes discourage bears.

If a bear comes into your yard:

- Don't panic! Don't shoot it! Don't approach it!
- Learn to tolerate bears. This is their world too.
- Most bears fear people and will leave when they see you. If a bear woofs, pops its jaws, slaps the ground, or bluffs like it's going to charge, you are too close.
- Back away slowly, go inside, and wait for the bear to leave.

If a bear refuses to leave:

- Make loud noises or throw something to scare it away.
- Always give the bear an avenue of escape.

If a bear is treed:

- Leave it alone! The bear will usually go away when it feels it is safe.
- Tell people to leave the area.
- Remove any dogs from the area.

SAVE THE CRITTERS SALE

August 27, 28, 29, 2009 at the Eau Claire County Expo Center

We have decided to combine our Thrift Sale, and our Bake, Craft and White Elephant Sale into one big event. We will have our education owls on site part of each day so you can meet them. We will have everything for sale at "move 'em out" prices. New items, gently used, unique & unusual treasures, antiques, collectibles, clothing, sporting, recreation, household goods, you name it-we have it. I would say "everything but the kitchen sink" but we may have one of those too! You will have to come to see for yourself.

Our Veterinarians

White Pine is grateful to all of our consulting veterinarians for giving so generously of their time, expertise, and supplies. White Pine could not operate without them.

Ark Animal Hospital - Dr. Jeff Stepanek

Eau Claire Animal Hospital - Dr. Craig Johnson, Dr. Cynthia Mather
Dr William Rogers, Dr. Jodi Bohl

Family & Farm Veterinary Clinic, Hayward - Dr. Ed Haugen

Hoof and Paw, Menomonie - Dr. Foster Soper

Kindness Animal Hospital - Dr. Charles Arntson

Kronenwetter Vet Care, Mosinee - Dr. Chris Bleifuss

Northside Pet Hospital - Dr. David Menard, Dr Rebecca Lee,
Dr Carmi Simonson

Oakwood Hills Animal Hospital - Dr. Robert Bohacek,
- Dr. Pam Ogden, Dr. Kevin Landorf
- Dr. Joan Schumacher

Dr. Marv Smith, Eau Claire - Formerly of Eau Claire Animal Hosp.

Mosinee Vet Clinic, Mosinee - Dr Robert Pope

Westgate Animal Hospital - Dr. Nate Meyer, Dr Duane Vollendorf,
- Dr Pam Hansen, Dr. Julia Foster-Gawley

You can help us thank these caring Veterinarians by patronizing them when your pets need help.

See us in Color

This newsletter is available in color on our WEB page. Our WEB site is:

www.whitepinewildlife.org



In Celebration/Honor Of

From Marjean Schauer - Merry Christmas to **Cheryl Cutsforth**.

From Audrey Kleimet & Candy Ziemer - Happy Birthday to **Jan Jablonski**

From Louise Olson - Happy Birthday to my husband, **Kurt**.

From Bonnie Tibbits - Merry Christmas to John & June & the **Critters at White Pine**.

From Sue & Tim Sullivan as a Christmas gift for **Ruby & Gust Jenson**. They believe in your good work.

From Ron Christianson in honor and celebration of **White Pine Wildlife Rehab Center**.

From Oliver Lee- Merry Christmas to **Angie & Matt Thompson and Family**.

From Dr. Karl & Jeanne Walter- Merry Christmas to **Mark Stolp, Rebecka Cooper, Rachele Stolp, Martha Stolp, Martin Stolp, Margaret Stolp, Sean Selz, Christopher Selz, Teresa Downey, Matthew Selz, Katie Selz, Monica Walter-Belden, Christina Walter-Belden, Joshua Nicolai, Andrew Nicolai, Nathan Robertson, David Jacobs, Elizabeth Jacobs, Tyler Walter, Zephaniah Walter, Shayna Walter, Kyle Kaner and Natalie Kaner**.

Notice to current Volunteers

If you are currently listed as a volunteer (bakers, crafters, waiters/waitresses, etc.) for White Pine, please send your email address to info@whitepinewildlife.org so we may use it contact you when we are organizing an event. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are needed for many tasks at White Pine including:

Pick up/Transport animals Work at Craft/Bake Sale Help with building projects
Fold newsletters Bake for Bake Sale/Spaghetti Feed/Auction Make craft Items
Work at Thrift Sale/Spaghetti Feed/ Auction Put up posters Sell tickets

If you would like to help, please call June at (715) 877-2372

Wild Baby Care

Please leave baby wild animals alone unless you are absolutely certain that Mom is dead. Wild animals rarely abandon their young, but they often protect them by staying away from them. A baby may seem abandoned when Mom is actually nearby waiting for you to leave.

Our first choice is always to leave the baby with its parent or return it as soon as possible. We have successfully returned babies of nearly every species to their parents after they were mistakenly kidnapped. If you have picked up a wild animal please call a licensed rehabilitator as soon as possible.

It is not a good idea to handle wildlife because of the many diseases and parasites they carry, but it is an "old wives tale" that the parent will not accept the baby after it has been touched by a human. Birds have almost no sense of smell so will not detect "human scent". Mammals have a keen sense of smell, but their maternal instinct is much stronger than any aversion to human scent.

Bunnies

Mother rabbits only feed their babies twice a day, usually at dawn and dusk, so it is rare to see them at the nest. If you think a nest has been abandoned, place 2 pencil sized sticks in an X over the nest. Leave the area, check the sticks after 24 hours. If the sticks have been moved, Mom has been there, if not call White Pine or a licensed rehabilitator in your area. We will tell you what to do next.

If a baby bunny's eyes are open, its fur is fluffy like normal bunny fur, and it is the size of an extra large egg, it is an independent bunny; it does not need its mom anymore - leave it alone. Wild bunnies have a very hyper nervous system. They do not tolerate being handled or caged. They seem outwardly calm but inside they are having a severe stress reaction that can be fatal. If the bunnies need to be moved to protect them from harm, put them under a brush pile or other natural cover and leave them alone.

Squirrels

Baby squirrels are rarely seen outside the nest unless they are in trouble. Do not put baby squirrels back into the tree. If they are

orphaned they may not have the strength to crawl out again. If the mother is there, give her a few hours to move the babies to a different nest. If the mother is dead, call White Pine or a licensed rehabilitator as soon as possible. Baby squirrels that are orphaned are in serious condition by the time they seek help. They need special care to survive. Their best chance is with a licensed rehabilitator.

Birds

Baby birds have different needs at different stages of development. A **nestling** is naked or slightly feathered and is completely dependent on its parents for food and warmth. If a nestling falls out of the nest it should be put back into the nest as soon as possible:

IF it is not injured

IF you know which nest it came from

IF you can reach the nest safely without disturbing it

IF you are sure it is not a fledgling.

When the nestling is back in its nest, leave the area so the parents can return. They will not go to the nest while you are near. Check from the house or from a distance to be sure the parents return.

A **fledgling** bird is older, stronger, and almost fully feathered. It will have a few tufts of fuzz here and there.

Fledglings have been coaxed from the nest by the parents to continue their development. They can't fly and don't know how to feed themselves yet. The parents will be teaching them to become independent. Leave fledglings alone unless they are in danger. If you must move a fledgling, take it only far enough for safety and then leave the area so the parents can come for it.

If a song bird hits a window it is often just stunned. Put the bird in a covered box in a dark, quiet, safe, place in the house for a couple of hours. This reduces the external stimulation to the brain, allowing it to rest, and is often all it will need to recover. After 2 hours take the box outside and open the lid. If the bird flies away it is ok. If not call White Pine so the bird can be admitted for further treatment. Prompt treatment can make the difference between life and death.

Do not give food or fluids unless



instructed to do so when you call. If the injury looks more serious than just a slight blow to the head or if you see blood, call White Pine right away. Always leave a message if we don't answer. We will return your call as soon as possible.

Wild birds require specialized care and you need a Federal permit to possess them, even if planning to let them go.

White Pine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (715) 877-2372 has trained volunteers who can properly and legally care for the bird and will give advice on what to do prior to admission. We can also refer you to a licensed rehabilitator closer to home if you are out of the area.

Fawns

Fawns are often mistakenly kidnapped. Just because you see a fawn alone in the woods or beside the road, does not mean that it is orphaned. Fawns have no scent for the first few weeks. Mother has a strong scent, so she stays away from her fawns



to protect them from predators. They are well hidden in the woods because of their coloring. If you are near a fawn, the mother will not go to it because she is hoping you have not seen it yet and she does not want to call attention to it. She will not approach the fawn until you leave. The doe will go to her fawns every six to eight hours to feed them and then lead them to a new spot. She will not be back until the next feeding six to eight hours later. If you think a fawn is orphaned please call a licensed rehabilitator or the DNR as soon as possible to evaluate the situation.

Wild animals need special care. They may carry infectious diseases and parasites that can be passed to humans. If you pick up an orphaned animal, wear gloves, minimize handling, keep the animal warm and quiet. Call a licensed rehabilitator as soon as possible.

PLEASE, DO NOT TRY TO FEED OR GIVE FLUIDS TO ANY ANIMAL YOU PICK UP.

Call
White Pine
(715) 877-2372

CRITTER MEMORIALS

From Linda Travaglio in memory of “**Beauty**” (“**Kitty Lightning**”). You were a great cat who is greatly missed and never forgotten. If looking for a new pet, please consider adopting to give an animal a second chance at life in a loving home.

From Lesley & Nishant Khattar in memory of “**Casey**” our Blue Heeler. She was a loved girl for all of her 16 ½ years. She always went with the flow and took everything in stride. It’s a good lesson to everyone that if you don’t take life too seriously, you get to experience more of it!

From Joyce Mortt in memory of “**Buttons**”, “**Buddy**” and “**Sunny**”. Buttons was a wonderful Peakapoo. She owned us for 16 years. After we lost Buttons, Buddy, a gold kitty, took over the running of our home for almost 16 years. Sunny adopted us when we went to the shelter after Buddy passed. Sunny was much loved for almost 15 years. Now the torch has been passed to Tom and Ted and they run the house like only 2 spoiled cats can.

From Rita Berge in memory of “**Rosie**” our 14 year old Black Lab. Rosie was a gentle, loyal companion who gave us two exceptional litters of puppies. Her daughter, “Ivory,” who is now 10, misses her so much. We all do, but are thankful for her long life and peaceful passing. Rest in peace, Old Girl!

From Terry Brenny in memory of our 3 family cats, “**Kamper**”, “**Callie**” and “**Thomas**”. They are sadly missed.

From Louis & Eleanor Boness in memory of “**Smokey**”, our gray fuzz ball. She joined our family in October 1990 and departed in November 2008. We called her our housewarming gift from God because she showed up the day the moving van unloaded our belongings. We feel this was the best gift we ever received. Smokey was a big part of our lives for 18 years. We miss her deeply.

From Jim & Carol Benning in memory of our daughter Mary’s beloved cat, “**Leonard**”. He gave her eight (all too short) years of companionship, laughter, devotion and unconditional love. He even enjoyed the long trip from Chicago to Eau Claire to visit his “grandparents” there. He’ll always live on in our memories as being more than a cat.

From Barbara Kelly-Karwoski in memory of my 2 Norwegian Elkhounds, “**Harley**” and “**Huey**”, who I still miss as much after 2 years. We got Harley first and a year later got Huey in a different state- turns out they were half-brothers. Great dogs!

Help Needed

White Pine has always run on a broken shoe string budget, barely able to keep ahead of expenses. Now we need your help more than ever. If you can afford to give, please think of White Pine. White Pine is the only wildlife rehab center in this part of the state. We care for 800 to 1000 wild critters from 22 counties every year. We present over 50 programs to schools, clubs & organizations every year and answer hundreds & hundreds of calls for wildlife advice. - The wild ones need us, we need you. Please donate if you can. We are a 501c(3) charitable organization - your donation is tax deductible.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who is so generously donating to our benefit auction, working, baking or coming to bid and buy. We can’t keep White Pine operating without you. For a list of sponsors & donors check our web site www.whitepinewildlife.org.

PLEASE HELP WHITE PINE

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ ZIP _____

Please make checks payable to
White Pine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
S3091 Oak Knoll Rd.
Fall Creek, WI 54742
(715) 877-2372

501c(3)

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- \$25 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$50 Supporting
- \$100 Contributing
- \$250 Benefactor
- \$___ Other
- _____ Memorial
- _____ In Memory of:
- _____ In Celebration of:
- _____ In Honor of:
- _____
- Please send receipt

MEMORIALS

From Candy Ziemer in memory of **Clem Jablonski** who passed away in January.

From Darla Sorenson in memory of a good friend, **Wendel Lovejoy**, who loved to feed and watch the wild-life in his back yard & in the woods along the creek.

From Patricia Hawkins in memory of my husband, **Ken Hawkins**. Ken loved all wildlife. He appreciated the help White Pine provided for the injured & orphaned animals he found.

From John & Betty Qualheim in memory of **Robert E. Lee**, a good friend to all.

From Rachel Kaeding in loving memory of my husband, "**Buck Kaeding**", always in my thoughts.

From Van & Robert Knutson in memory of **James McDermid**, who loved all and enjoyed life to its fullest.

From Indianhead Library System Staff in memory of Amy Alpine's father, **Mel Cohen**.

From Elaine Jeanne Lonning in memory of my husband of 55 years, **Bud Lonning** and my daughter, **Carol Lonning**. Carol, my youngest and only daughter, passed away in January 2007 at the age of 48. Bud joined her in heaven in February 2008. Bud grew up on a farm so he taught love and respect for nature and all animals to our entire family. Bud & Carol are always in my thoughts and prayers.

From Peggy Moore in memory of my Mother, **Hazel Moore**. She loved cats, especially my cat, Lady. She always had a smile on her face.



Available Electronically

If you would prefer to receive your White Pine News electronically, send an email to info@whitepinewildlife.org and we will notify you when each new newsletter is available.



Auction

TO BENEFIT

WHITE PINE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

4:00 PM

Eau Claire Expo Center / 4-H Fairgrounds

**1 Block West off Hwy 93 on Lorch Ave,
Eau Claire**

**New Items, Antiques, Collectibles, Sporting Equipment, Artwork by Nationally Known & Local Artists, Hundreds of Gift Certificates, Fun & Pampering for You & Your Pet, Something for everyone.
All your gift giving needs here.**

White Pine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
S3091 Oak Knoll Road
Fall Creek, Wisconsin 54742
Phone (715) 877-2372

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