



Friday, August 15, 2014

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Printable Version](#) | [Send this to a friend](#)

In this issue:

- [A REAL Fire Drill!](#)
- [Winding Down](#)
- [King Estate Benefit Dinner](#)

A REAL Fire Drill!

On Thursday, August 7th, we had the 'opportunity' to do a test run of our Emergency Action Plan. We received a call from a concerned person, saying a friend had just called about a fire



'somewhere between Spencer Butte Middle School and the Butte.'

We ran outside and between us and the city was an enormous black plume of smoke and we started hearing a number of sirens. When I called the fire dispatch line, they didn't yet know where the fire was. One of the first firefighters who responded later told me that her engine was in South Eugene on a medical call when they saw the smoke - and they just put on the sirens and went searching for it! A downtown station also saw the smoke and headed for it, before the closest station even knew what was going on! By the time we next called, they had pinpointed it to Owl Road and Fox Hollow: about a quarter mile from us. Barrels of oil and liquefied natural gas were exploding, sending flames 120' into the air, reaching the top of surrounding trees, raising the very real risk of a crown fire.

Fire is our primary fear here - and fire in the South Hills is also a primary nightmare of the local fire departments. Staff immediately activated the phone tree and within about 20 minutes we had 27 people here, between staff and volunteers. We pulled supplies out of our emergency supply shed, set up enough carriers and porta-pets, lined with towels and covered with sheets, to evacuate the 100 or so birds on site (or release those ready.)

Fox Hollow was blocked both north and south of us but they let our responders through. The Oregon Department of Forestry had a helicopter dropping water on the fire, and Eugene-Springfield, and volunteer fire departments had 70 firefighters and 10 engines that reported, plus tanker trucks - one of which was parked across the street from our driveway. Both the police officer and, later, the Sheriff's deputy that were posted by our driveway were excellent at keeping us informed of the status of the fire, with a direct line to the fire response.

We moved all flammables, like our generator and oxygen tanks,

Member Monday Coming Up!

Just a reminder to our members that this coming Monday, the 18th of August, is our fourth Member Monday of the summer. Raptor 911: What brings our patients into the hospital and what happens there? Enjoy a brief look into our clinic, see some x-rays, read the personal stories of our birds to learn some of the many, many problems that bring the birds into care. Children's activity from 3:00-6:00 is Wildlife Play Hospital.

Happy hour with Hop Valley beer and King Estate and Willanmette Valley Vineyards wine from 6:00-8:00. Hope to see you there!



All About Owls!

Our August Family Nature Discovery Day is All About Owls! Sunday, August 31st, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm, bring the family up to visit with our 10 species of owls, create a pine cone owl to take home, and see what a wild owl was eating by dissecting owl pellets!

Activities are recommended for children between the ages of 4-13

away from the buildings; we loaded previously marked file drawers of important materials into vehicles; we brought out the coolers and prepared to load up the food in the freezers. We were ready to start catching up birds when we got the news that the fire was contained. Not yet out, but contained. Once they removed evacuation orders from the surrounding properties, we decided we could stand down and we put everything away again.

Only later, looking back, did we realize that the whole thing was over in two hours - easily two of the longest hours of our lives! But we learned a lot and we have surveyed all our responders about what worked and what didn't. All in all, however, we are so deeply grateful to our volunteers - and their employers who let them drop everything and come running when we needed them - and to the quick and effective response of the fire departments, police department, and Dept of Forestry.

Winding Down

Our busiest summer ever is winding down ... As mentioned in the last two newsletters, we have seen an unprecedented number of youngsters coming into the clinic.



We've passed 200 intakes for the year, which is more than most of our full years. Over 90 babies of 12 different raptor species have come in since mid-April saw the first egg; and another 50 adults in various states of disrepair, and some passerines and other species we then transferred to our friendly neighborhood all-species rehab center. We still have about 10 barn owls, but most have been released.

Previous experience has shown that when spring prey-base conditions are good enough to produce a big crop of nest successes, we also see a higher than usual number of trauma and emaciation cases in the fall and winter - as those youngsters hit the reality of life on their own.

We do expect our food costs to probably double over what we projected for the year - we've spent \$8300 just on rodents (mostly mice!) since May, despite doubling our own breeding production of mice. It's been an exhausting and exhilarating few months! We wish all these youngsters success and longevity. **Young Red-Tailed Hawk in our flight cage. Photo by Brian Davies**

>> [Click here if you can help us with baby food expenses!](#)

King Estate Benefit Dinner

What a truly lovely evening! Our thanks to all of you who came, to King Estate for hosting and providing such a beautiful venue, fine wine, and delicious food, and to Tim Fox from Country 93 for being our MC and making it fun! We are awed by the generous response

and children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost of activities are general admission to CRC (CRC members receive free admission) and a \$2 activity charge for participants. If you ride your bike or hike the Ridgeline Trail to CRC your activity fee will be waived!

Hope to see you there!



Looking for a New or New-to-You Car?

If you are in the market for a new Chevy, or a quality used vehicle, consider shopping at Guaranty Chevrolet in Junction City. They are donating \$200 to Cascades Raptor Center from every purchaser that fills out a voucher listing us - through September 30th!

Please share on your social media pages, email lists and more - and send friends, family, and associates to Guaranty Chevrolet. CRC has vouchers here OR they can pick one up at Guaranty - but a voucher DOES need to be filled out in order for us to get the donation.

Thank you, Guaranty Chevrolet!
On Hwy 99, just a few minutes north of the Eugene airport.

to our needs. This is our major fund-raising event and we particularly appreciate the support in this year of special needs.

Our deep and sincere gratitude.



[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Printable Version](#) | [Send this to a friend](#)

www.eRaptors.org
Cascades Raptor Center
32275 Fox Hollow Rd
PO Box 5386
Eugene OR 97405 USA

This email was created and delivered using [Industry Mailout](#)