



Saturday, June 27, 2015

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Family Nature Discovery Day

TOMORROW! Come bring the family to visit the birds and make fairy cottages and other art from found objects in nature. Our second Family Nature Discovery Day of the season is Sunday, June 28, from noon to 4:00 pm: The Art of Nature. You are invited to come create beauty with our selection of natural treasures: shells, seed pods, rocks, leaves, bark, acorns and more. Build your artwork on a bed of sand, take a photo, and then do it again!

Activities are recommended for children between the ages of 7-12 and children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is general admission to the center plus a \$2 activity fee for those participating. If you ride your bike or hike the Ridgeline Trail to the Raptor Center, the activity fee is waived.

Our sincere thanks to KVAL-TV and Springfield Utility Board (SUB) for sponsoring this event.



A European Connection

WANTED: Host families to offer accommodation to international volunteers!

Cascades Raptor Center has had the wonderful opportunity of working with several outstanding young volunteers from Germany and Denmark. Now, in cooperation with INTERNeX International Exchange, we are looking for homestay families who are willing to offer room and board to our international volunteers in exchange for a monthly stipend.

We are looking for an open and welcoming environment to give European exchange volunteers a unique Oregon experience! Host Families must offer a private bedroom (all other rooms can be shared) and 3 meals a day. Of course the volunteer can prepare his/her own breakfast and lunch with the food provided.



The students that volunteer at the Cascades Raptor Center are mature, independent and responsible, looking to gain valuable experience, learn about the USA, and volunteer for a good cause. Most volunteers are from Germany and other European countries and speak English well. Ages are usually between 18 – 30. Most volunteers stay between 4 – 12 weeks. The Raptor Center has really enjoyed having these students and wants to create a fun and worthwhile experience for them, and not just when they are with us.

Payments to host families are sent through INTERNeX in advance. They pay per 4 week period around US\$750 per 4 week term (negotiable).

If you are interested please email Patrick van de Welde at INTERNeX: patrick@internexworld.com to discuss further details. The Raptor Center has had two awesome young men so far this year and we are expecting another one in October - if we can find a good homestay for him. Both INTERNeX and Cascades Raptor Center truly appreciate the opportunity to work together to provide this experience, but without local host families, INTERNeX volunteers would not be able to take part. Thank you for your consideration of this opportunity.

>> [To learn more about INTERNeX, click here.](#)

Summer Daze

The Raptor Center is frequently asked what we do for the birds in our care during hot weather like we are having currently. Since it is so unseasonable for us in temperate Oregon, the birds are not

used to it and birds in enclosures do not have the same options that birds in the wild might have to move around. However, we do several things to make sure our resident and hospital birds stay comfortable.

First: they always have access to cool, clean water (sometimes even with ice in it - more for enrichment, probably, than for its ability to cool the surrounding air.)

Second: many of the birds like to take a shower! Volunteers and staff will stand for a while and mist the ones who enjoy it.

Third: The gravel flooring, walls, perches, and surroundings are soaked with water for evaporative cooling. Sprinklers are placed around the enclosures, too, and run in the early mornings - it is amazing how much difference that can make for the air temperature right around the aviaries.

Fourth: The Raptor Center is 500' feet higher than most of Eugene, so we stay a bit cooler than the valley (in the winter, too); and being on the slope of Spencer Butte, there is usually a breeze that might not be apparent out on the flats. (The Turkey Vultures sure love to soar around us, for this same reason.)

Fifth: We watch them very carefully, observing them on rounds three to four times a day, and are in each enclosure during the day. We keep an eye on them and watch for any sign of heat stress.

We are often surprised at how much they love the warm weather, splaying themselves out to catch the rays (like Taka, our Swainson's Hawk, in the photo above). But there is always a shaded or cooler corner to which they can move if they desire.



Rehab notes

Baby season has been a bit odd this year - it started, then has all but stopped! We have 10 Barn Owls graduating from Mouse University and almost ready for release, and only one other coming up in the queue. Only one young Western Screech Owl that we could not return to the nest, who came in with a parent. And only five American Kestrels. We are currently getting in more adults than youngsters.

We have two Red-shouldered Hawks in care at the same time, a first for us with this species that has only been breeding in Oregon for the last 20 or so years. Our current patients, an adult and a youngster, both have leg issues. The fledgling came in with a broken leg, which was open but in fairly good alignment - so was splinted rather than pinned. The adult had his leg slashed to the bone by a leg-hold trap (grrr!) placed next to a gopher hole.

And we have the first inhabitant of our beautiful new large bird ICU holding pen (see photo): an adult Turkey Vulture found huddled in the middle of Hwy 101 in Florence. Our deep gratitude to the skills of Gary Jenkins and his friend Obie, to Elliott Specialty Metal for donated materials, and to Wildlife Support Charitable Trust for funding the project, as well as the funding for a therapy light unit that just arrived and that we very much look forward to using to speed healing of wounds.



King Estate Benefit Dinner

We hope some of you are planning on joining us for our 25th anniversary benefit dinner at the Pavilion at King Estate: 6:00 pm on Saturday, August 22nd. Although we don't have the menu yet - which will be sent out as soon as it is finalized - you can reserve your seat now: \$125 in honor of our anniversary! Sign up below or email Julie@eRaptors.org if you have any questions. This is our major fundraiser of the year and it's always great food, wine and company! Hope to see you there.

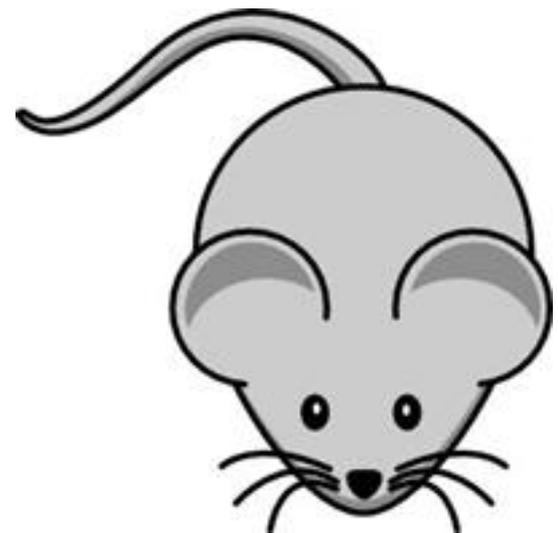
>> [Click here to reserve and pay online.](#)



Gift certificate for MICE!

Ever wanted to give something that will go directly to the birds? Just as in the wild, rodents form an important part of a nutritious and enriching diet for the raptors in our care. You can purchase gift certificates for mice through Layne Labs, and they will send them directly to us. A perfect 'get well' gift for the birds in rehab or the hard-working education ambassadors. Thank you!

>> [Click here to go directly to Layne Labs!](#)



Gratitude

The Raptor Center owes its existence to our generous community: from volunteers (our backbone) to financial supporters (our life blood), to visitors, area teachers, the media, suppliers, vendors, and more. The well-being of the birds is our common goal and we are ever grateful to

- the caring people who entrust us with the sick, orphaned, and injured birds they find;
- our volunteers who care for the birds daily and also rescue, transport, renest, release them;
- our volunteers who run errands, events, provide advice, coordinate adoptions, and run our board;
- the teachers who share our vision of the natural world and choose to share it with their students;
- our visitors who are moved by the beauty of these birds and their life stories;
- community members and businesses who provide critical in-kind materials and services;
- our bird adopters, members and other supporters who help make it possible to provide safe and spacious housing, nutritious meals for a long life, and the enrichment and stimulation of training.



THANK YOU to all! We absolutely could not do this without you.

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

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