



Thursday, October 23, 2014

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In this issue:

- [Free for Military on Veteran's Day](#)
- [MUSE Clues!](#)
- [As the weather turns ...](#)
- [Winter Hours](#)
- [Fostering a connection](#)
- [Thank you!](#)

Free for Military on Veteran's Day

Cascades Raptor Center is open to the public on Veteran's Day, 11/11/14 - and particularly welcomes veterans and active military, and their families.

Admission for military families is FREE on Veteran's Day! CRC sets this day aside to thank our military men and women, and their families, for their service by offering free admission to come visit our birds. Our military personnel and veterans serve or have served our country and many have fought for our democratic ideals under our national symbol, the bald eagle. Their families have sacrificed and worried, and many have lost loved ones. It is CRC's privilege and pleasure to host our servicemen and women along with their families on this important day of remembrance. CRC is open from 10 am to 4 pm.



MUSE Clues!

MUSE Clues is a scavenger hunt with prizes! This year it will be going on for a full year - from now to September 2015.



MUSE is a consortium of 14 organizations in Eugene and Springfield who work together to promote community education on a wide range of subjects, from art to science and aviation, plants to birds, historic homes to county artifacts, urban nature to wetlands - and more! See the MUSE website museumslanecounty.org for links to all the participating organizations, their locations, and hours.

To join the game: Print out the pdf via the link below, find the special offers on the back, visit at least eight of the participating sites, find the answer to the Clues questions, and enter to win! A great way to spend some winter, spring or summer vacation days. Have fun! We hope to see you at CRC!

>> [Click here for more information!](#)

As the weather turns ...

Blessed rain and cooler temperatures mark the advent of Fall here in the valley. The Osprey and most of the Turkey Vultures have left for points south. Young birds are dispersing and becoming independent of their parents - with varying levels of skill and success. In CRC's wildlife hospital, after a short lull, new patients are coming into the hospital. Most of the admissions now are trauma and starvation cases but we are still seeing an occasional baby Barn Owl (the only local raptor that double, and sometimes triple, clutches, if food is plentiful - we have admitted 55 young Barn Owls so far this year, and 4 adults.)



Three Turkey Vultures in two days came in with old fractures of the wing. Two had to be immediately euthanized, but one has a chance of recovery if we can successfully treat the bone infection at the healed fracture sites. A migrating Northern Saw-whet Owl that hit a window, leaving a perfect feather print, is suffering from a bad concussion. A young Peregrine Falcon whose starvation probably pre-dated its broken wing will, we hope, make it back out there - IF return to function is perfect, we will find a falconer who can assess her flight ability and give her an opportunity to improve her hunting skills. There is little room for error, given the way these birds hunt at high speeds.

Now is the time of the year that we expect to see Merlins and Rough-Legged Hawks - birds from further north who winter here. Fall and winter is also when we see most Northern Pygmy Owls (photo above) who, like the Saw-whets, tend to either migrate through or come lower in elevation.

This season is a challenging time with strict attention paid to very individualized treatment plans, as we deal with emaciation, anemia, and overloads of both internal and external parasites. We are very grateful to Wildlife Support Charitable Trust for a grant earlier in the year that has allowed us to purchase new incubators and a new microscope, which are equipping us well for the trials of this season!

Winter Hours

Hard to believe it's almost November! This year has really raced by - and our busiest ever, both in terms of rehab and education programs.

On November 1st every year, we switch to our winter hours. We will still be open the same days (Tuesday through Sunday, closed Mondays) but only from 10 am to 4 pm. Especially with the time change, it's just too dark to see the birds any later in the afternoon.

Starting in April, we will return to being open until 6 pm.



For the first time, we will be CLOSED on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, as a way of supporting our wonderful volunteers, staff, and their families. All the birds' needs will be met before we sit down for our own celebrations but being closed to the public allows us some flexibility in scheduling. We will, of course, still be available for raptor emergencies

and will be open the rest of those weekends as usual.

Fostering a connection

As you know, public education is as big a part of our mission as the rescue of individual raptors. Our Family Nature Discovery Days were very well attended this year, thanks in large part to our sponsors **KVAL, Wild Birds Unlimited, Umpqua Bank, Springfield Utility Board, Capella Market, and Mountain Rose Herbs** - who helped by publicizing the event to their constituents. Special thanks to Umpqua Bank for providing free ice cream during Art in Nature in June, to Capella for the bike raffle/hot dog roast fund-raiser the day before August's All About Owls, and to Mountain Rose Herbs for providing delicious tea to our visitors during Migration Station in September. We are very grateful for the generous support of these sponsors and all of our community. Family Nature Discovery Days are usually our highest admission days of the year, and 2014 was no exception - with two of them breaking a record. We are grateful and hope all who attended had as great a time as we did.



If you like backyard birds AND would like to support CRC, **Wild Birds Unlimited** will be hosting Dmitri, our Eurasian Eagle Owl, at the store on Willamette St on Halloween, starting at 4:00. Anyone becoming a CRC member or renewing CRC membership that day or during the following two weeks will get a \$10 gift certificate for products available at the store! Thank you, WBU!

Besides a steady flow of general public visitors so far this year, 2014 has already been a record year for programs! CRC is delighted to have more schools than usual book classroom presentations this fall; we hope that will be an on-going trend. So many schools often wait til spring that we can sometimes not accommodate all the requests we get. We love going to the schools during the fall and winter and also heartily appreciate those groups willing to brave the elements to Take a Walk on the Wild Side here.

We also appreciate being highlighted in the Oregonian Travel Section this coming weekend - the article is already available on OregonLive and will undoubtedly result in more visitors. Bird training and enrichment goes on year-round, and visitors often get an opportunity to watch that while they are here. We enjoy demonstrating the comfort and confidence of the avian partners on our education team.

>> [Click here for Oregonian article.](#)

Thank you!

CRC extends its sincere thanks for the generous response to our summer newsletter. We have been particularly delighted to hear from some folks who have not contributed in awhile. We will be getting October and November member renewal notices out soon, and are already working on our gorgeous (if we do say so!) year-end magazine. This is the beginning of our 25th year! Thank you to all who have joined us along the wild ride.

>> [To make a secure online contribution, click here!](#)



Snowy Owl and Barn Owl photos by Joel Leff.. Owl and pumpkin by Karl Edwards.

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