Many Thanks to our Sponsors!

Your name, a loved one’s name or your group or company’s name can be listed here for an annual donation of $150 or more.  Your donation is fully tax-deductible & will help advance the work of Three Rivers Avian Center.

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A Very Special Thank You to:

The Beckley Area Foundation’s Nancy R. Smith Family Foundation
In loving memory of:

Three Rivers Avian Center
2583 Brooks Mountain Road
Hinton, WV 25951-5621
A private nonprofit organization dedicated to wild bird conservation &
to educating and involving people in ecosystem stewardship since 1990
www.tracwv.org  trac@tracwv.org

The Newsletter of Three Rivers Avian Center

The Raptor Chapter

Volume 28  #2 of 3  Summer 2019

Our time between the beginning of April and the end of August (known as “Baby Season”) has been busy this year. We’ve had 20 species of songbirds turned in, 8 raptor species and 2 species of aquatic/wading birds.

The mild wet Spring seemed to lead to more numerous and larger clutches of chicks, but the weather also contributed to dangerous conditions for those chicks at times. Heavy rains washed down several chimney swift nests, causing blunt trauma to the young developing chicks that was hard to overcome. Several Robins were rescued from toppled trees, as were some Eastern Phoebes. Barred owls also had a very good breeding season, but we received several youngsters who thought that hunting the roadway was a good idea and instead got hit by vehicles. Sadly we received 2 bald eagles, both of which tested positive for high lead toxicity. As of this writing, we are currently caring for a great blue heron, 2 great horned owls, 2 Carolina wrens, a red shouldered hawk and a red tailed hawk - both first year birds.

It is now time for the annual Fall Migration! Many warblers, thrashers, thrushes and others have started their long journey to their Wintering lands. You can help them along their way with a few thoughtful actions: 1) keep your hummingbird feeders up and filled with fresh sugar water until you haven’t had a hummer in 2 weeks or so (remember not to use red dye!). This could be as late as October or even later. Research has shown that hummingbirds remember feeder locations all along their routes and a quick energy sip can be sustaining. 2) Window strikes are a major cause of injury and death during Migration. If you have a window that birds fly into, take a text highlighter marker (the kind with florescent ink) and make squiggles or drawings on the inside of the window where they are hitting. The florescent ink acts like a stoplight to birds, and they see it easily. It clues the birds in that there is glass there, even if there is a reflection that is strong. 3) Keep your cat indoors, especially during the early mornings, early evenings and overnight. Many smaller birds migrate at night and come down at daylight, exhausted and hungry. They then feed frantically and sleep HARD, often very near the ground which makes them easy prey for cats. At evening, they are congregating and getting up into the air, which also intrigues cats and attracts them to try to get an easy meal. At night, your cat can become prey for foxes and larger owls, both of which are showing their young where to find food.
Cats are wonderful companions! Keep your fuzzy friend(s) safe and wild birds as well.
Adapted to their specific roles in the ecosystem and ways you can help wild birds. Come join us!

A fun filled, interactive program focusing on how interesting various birds are, how they are.

We are hoping to get it back this week and fully functional...fingers crossed!!

We are having issues. The van has been in the Dealership shop repaired 3 times this year and the drive train repair is still of budget. We are hoping to make it into the Fall somehow when Ford is coming out with an

A 14 to 17 moving between activities such as zip lines, BMX, paddle boarding, skateboarding, river rafting, scuba diving, boulder and rock climbing, and so much more. Following through with the event theme "Unlock a New World", the Jamboree included a World Culture Day where the different countries shared their customs, traditional uniforms and most of all, food. The Department of the Interior hosted a large tent in the Legacy area where the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management teamed up to create a series of activities that would earn participating Scouts and visitors a beautiful unique patch. Three Rivers Avian Center with Regis our Bald Eagle Ambassador were featured in the center of the tent and he was very popular! It was interesting and fun to interact with so many young people from so many different countries, learning ways to get past language difficulties and sharing laughs.

T he Summer is winding down, but TRAC’s award winning “Wings of Wonder: WV Birds of Prey” programs still have 5 more performances in the WV State Parks and Forests! All Park programs are open to the public, FREE & great fun for all ages. We bring 6 non-releaseable Raptor Ambassadors with us: hawks, owls, falcons and Regis our Bald Eagle Ambassador. It's a fun filled, interactive program focusing on how interesting various birds are, how they are adapted to their specific roles in the ecosystem and ways you can help wild birds. Come join us!

August 24 Twin Falls Resort State Park 7 PM in the Azalea Room
August 31 Audra State Park 7 PM in the main shelter by the River
September 14 Pipestem Resort State Park 7 PM in the Cardinal Room
September 21 Tygart Lake State Park 7 PM at the Campground (in the lodge if it rains)

As we come into hunting seasons this Fall, please hunters, make sure you are using non-lead ammunition. If you are using lead ammunition (which is classified as a toxic hazard), there is almost no part of what you kill that will be healthy for your family. If you leave pieces of it in the field, wildlife will suffer; all scavengers including eagles, hawks and owls. Please take a minute to look at our website on this issue for more information and links to resources to purchase non-lead ammunition and to learn of the effects of lead ammunition: www.tracwv.org/lead.html

Your family, TRAC and all wildlife will thank you.

Memberships are vital to the success of Three Rivers Avian Center. As an IRS registered 501(c)3 charity, your donations are tax-deductible. Members receive several informational mailings annually. Feathered Friends receive the mailings as well as a frame ready certificate featuring the Raptor Educational Ambassador of their choice. Memberships & Feathered Friendships are renewable annually, the renewal date is included on the mailing label of your newsletter. Credit/debit cards & Paypal are accepted on our website: www.tracwv.org, by phone or in person. Please let us know if this is a gift or in memory of a loved one!

Name: __________________________ Address: __________________________
E-mail: __________________________

Memberships:

- Individual ($10) ___
- Family ($25) ___
- Patron ($150) __
- Benefactor ($75) __
- Sponsor ($150) __
- Eagle ($1,000) ___
- Falcon ($500) ___
- Owl ($250) ___
- Patron ($100) ___
- Family ($25) ___
- Individual ($10) ___

Feathered Friend Sponsorships:

- Condor ($30) ___
- Lanner falcon ($30) ___
- Harlan’s red tailed hawk ($30) ___
- Ryan young ruffed grouse ($30) ___
- Max broad-winged hawk ($30) ___
- Dori peregrine falcon ($30) ___
- Jim American kestrel ($30) ___
- Robby great horned owl ($30) ___
- Steve red-tailed hawk ($30) ___
- Tim ruffed screech owl ($30) ___
- Felix grey screech owl ($30) ___
- Heron ($30) ___

If you shop at Kroger, you can help TRAC! All you need to do is go to www.Kroger.com/comm and select Three Rivers Avian Center as your charity of choice. You need to re-register your decision annually, but other than that, every time you swipe your Kroger card with a purchase, Kroger makes a quarterly donation to TRAC!! You still keep your fuel points, still get your discounts, but TRAC also benefits. It really adds up!!

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Three Rivers Avian Center’s Migration Celebration 2019 was a lot of fun, despite intermittently drizzly weather on May 11. The day was filled with kids crafts and storytelling with Carla Long, face painting by Nicole Watson, birding walks led by Bev Delidow and Rodney Davis, nature walks led by the National Park Service, animal shape painting with the WV Division of Natural Resources, magic shows by Tricky Chaz, and a presentation on bees, beekeeping and pollination by the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective. A bounce castle and a double bungee run gave little children entertainment all day long. In the afternoon Steven Wayne Rotsch led an hour long outdoor raptor photography workshop.

While all this was going on, interactive displays were provided by Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory, New River Gorge National River, Appalachian Beekeeping Collective, Piney Creek Watershed Association, and the WV Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program. TRAC brought our display too, including Gimli the American Kestrel, Dori the Peregrine Falcon, Hoolie the Great Horned Owl and Regis the Bald Eagle.

The door prize of a large copper and glass bird feeder was won by Bonnie Smith of Beaver, WV. Great food was provided by Dickie’s Barbecue Pit’s Preston Reeves and his family. Funding for this festival was provided by the Nancy R. Smith Family Fund at the Beckley Area Foundation and with support from the WV State Legislature and the WV Division of Culture and History. Thanks also to Little Beaver State Park for providing such a great venue and helping so much!
Hope Takes Flight!
Annual Fundraiser for
Three Rivers Avian Center
Saturday,
October 26, 2019
5 to 7 PM

Tickets: adults $25.00 each, ages 9 - 17 $15.00 each

Event Location: Buckskin Council Scouting Headquarters at the
H. Bernard Wehrle Sr. Scout Leadership Service Center,
2829 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston WV
Tickets include entry for door prizes, finger foods, non-alcoholic beverages, live
raptors on display (including hawks, owls, falcons & Regis the Bald Eagle) and a
chance to interact with TRAC Staff, Board of Directors and Advisory Board.

* silent auction       *cash bar available
All donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS 501(c)3 regulations. Consult your tax accountant.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact
Three Rivers Avian Center
trac@tracwv.org Or 304.466.4683
Tickets may be purchased directly from our website:
www.tracwv.org
Spots are still available for the TRAC Fall Photo Workshop, October 12th!
Join Steven Wayne Rotsch and TRAC staff in a day of congenial photography fun!
Amateur and professional photographers alike are invited to take this opportunity to capture
images of raptors native to West Virginia in natural settings in either half day or day-long sessions.
Ten to twelve live birds of prey will be modeling for the cameras, including a Bald Eagle,
Red-tailed Hawks, a Peregrine Falcon, an American Kestrel and a
Great Horned Owl among others. All raptors will be available during
the both the morning (9AM - 12PM) and afternoon (1PM - 4PM)
sessions, for those who wish to join both sessions an on-site lunch is
included. Participants should bring a camera, flash, a telephoto lens
if you have one, extra batteries and lots of memory cards. Tripods
and/or monopods are helpful. In one day, participants can take
photographs of these raptors that would take a lifetime to duplicate in
the wild, if at all. All photograph sessions will be outdoors on site at
TRAC, so dress appropriately. Contact Steve Rotsch to register or for
more information: www.stevenrotsch.com, 304-541-7574 or by e-
mail: swrkb@aol.com. Full details of the workshop, registration
forms, and a gallery of photos from previous workshops can be found
on his website. Come join us for a relaxing and fun filled time!