



# The Raptor Chapter

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## The Newsletter of Three Rivers Avian Center

The late June flooding in southern West Virginia has been devastating, with hundreds of homes lost and 23 people dead. Three Rivers Avian Center made it through the storms in fairly good shape though and we are counting ourselves very lucky. We lost power for 4 days but we have generators and we had plenty of gasoline on site to run them, so we did not lose any raptor food in our freezers.

Three trees were uprooted on site, one missed landing on the van by about 10 feet as it fell. We are deeply grateful to the guys of Sylvan Traditions for their hard work cutting up and removing the trees so we could easily access the TRAC Hospital again! The heavy rains washed out our on site access road in two places: one area is just above our upper parking lot and the other is beside our bald eagle Regis' cage. It will take some work with a front end loader and backhoe to repair the damage, since a lot of the gravel was swept many yards away from the damage. With all the emergency needs currently around us, it will be a while before the washed out areas on site are repaired. The State maintained roads on our Mountain also were heavily washed, making driving to and from TRAC very difficult for many days. Due to the dangerous road conditions, TRAC cancelled our July Public Tour Day. The WV Department of Highways crew have now got both roads in excellent condition, even working on Saturday to do so.

It was several days into the crisis before the calls started to come in about birds in need of care. Two young broadwinged hawks (see picture) were our first storm-related intakes, found in Anthony in Greenbrier county. Volunteer Rodney Davis was able to rescue them from the campground where they were found, wet and very, very hungry. The youngest of the two had a fractured tibia and fibula. They were raised up in the outdoor songbird flight cage where they could see and hear the local family of broadwinged hawks. As soon as they were ready, the two youngsters were released on site and both were immediately adopted. They will fly South soon!



### DID YOU KNOW?

It's a good idea to keep filling your hummingbird feeders well into the Fall.

Migrating birds remember where the feeders are and will stop off for a quick energy sip as they move South. Mix 1 cup warm water with 1/4 cup plain white sugar. Don't add color!

April was volunteer month at TRAC, and Spring Cleaning was done more thoroughly than ever! First, Nate Morey and Mike Segars of Sylvan Traditions came in to remove a pine tree that was overshadowing Hoolie's new cage. Within a few hours, no evidence of the scraggly old pine tree remained, but there was a great brush pile for the wildlife to hide in at the edge of the woods. Next, a cleaning crew led by Lynn Turlin jobbed in to completely clean the TRAC Hospital from top to bottom, including all the cages and floor mats that we use in the indoor rooms. Many thanks to the crew: Lynn Turlin, Louise Bishop, Kevin Kinzer, Dayton Meadows, Carlene Barnes, Vickie Raye and Sam Richmond! That's the most thorough cleaning the building has had at one time since it was built in 2001!! Next up, and not to be outdone, the Biology Club from WVU Tech came in at the end of the month and helped with mews maintenance by removing accumulated dirt and mulch from the outdoors parts of the mews and clearing the drains. This turned out to be even better than we'd thought when the floods of June and July happened - the mews came through in great shape! We also owe another huge thanks to Sylvan Tradition's Nate Morey and Mike Segars for coming in July to cut up downed trees from the floods. It was a lot of work. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!!!



*WVU Tech Biology Club students help maintain the mews for our Educational Ambassadors. Photo courtesy of Sam Richmond.*

### Meet TRAC's 2016 Summer Intern: Andy Maier



I am a rising senior at Berea College in Berea Kentucky. I will graduate in 2017 with a degree in Education Studies and a minor in Theater, which I hope to use to teach theater to school age children. I became interested in TRAC early on due to my mother's involvement with the Board of Directors and decided to apply for the internship which would also count for credit towards my major. While the TRAC internship may appear to have little to do with theater education, I have observed many overlapping similarities. Not only were there similarities but also staggering differences. The internship has challenged and engaged me in interesting and unsuspected ways.

While I expected to learn the biography of each bird, which is repeated at every show, I did not expect to learn so much about each bird's species. Not only the physical differences between but also their social behavior and preferences. Each bird has its own personality as well as personal inclinations toward humans and each other.

Some of the challenges that I faced in this internship included the rather stormy summer weather as well. The constant storms definitely kept us all on our toes as well as provided much practice with strategic planning. Another challenge was learning all the possible information that can be included in each show with each bird and what to cover each time. The amount of information is endless and can be presented in a number of ways which is why at times it was hard to narrow down what subject to cover.

While I would highly recommend this internship to future students, I would like to offer the advice to invest in candles and a bottle of Advil. Both ended up rather useful this summer more than once. Over all the internship was not only informational but enjoyable. Especially in the traveling around the state and enjoying the many different state parks West Virginia has to offer. I am very glad that I joined TRAC for the 2016 summer and look forward to volunteering in the future. *Andy received the Order of the Feather Award for her exceptional work here at TRAC.*



Mark your calendars! TRAC has several events coming up this Fall in addition to our regular educational programs. We hope you can join us!

**September 10** Kanawha State Forest 1PM "Wings of Wonder: WV Birds of Prey" program. Free and open to the public! Meet at the main building.

**September 17** Princeton Pet Expo 9 AM - 5 PM. Educational Ambassador Display and informational booth. Held on the grounds of the Princeton Rec Center.

**September 24** Raptor Day at Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory in Monroe County. Educational Ambassador Display and informational booth 10 AM - noon. (For directions visit <http://www.hangingrocktower.org>)

**October 1** Free Public Tour Day at TRAC - the last one for 2016! 1 - 5 PM

**October 6 & 9** WV Pumpkin Festival in Milton, 9 AM - 5PM Educational Ambassador Display and informational booth.

**October 8** TRAC Fall Photography Workshop Morning session 9 AM - noon, Afternoon session 1 - 4 PM. Registration required. Contact Steve Rotsch at [www.stevenrotsch.com](http://www.stevenrotsch.com) or 304-541-7574.

**B**elle Elementary Students raised funds for TRAC this Spring by holding a Spell-a-thon. Their efforts raised \$247.10 which we put to use immediately to help the baby birds and patients in our care. Thanks Belle Elementary! You guys are defiantly Bird Buddies!



If you shop at Kroger, you can help TRAC! Kroger has a generous donation program that has been generating funds for TRAC for a year now. All you need to do is go to [www.Kroger.com/comm](http://www.Kroger.com/comm) and select Three Rivers Avian Center as your charity of choice (or you can type in our NPO number 91219). 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!!

**Become a Member or Feathered Friend!**

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 a quarterly newsletter. Feathered friends receive the newsletter as well as a frameable certificate featuring the Raptor Educational Ambassador of their choice. Memberships are renewable annually, the renewal date is included on the mailing label of your newsletter. Credit/debit cards are accepted on our website: [www.tracwv.org](http://www.tracwv.org)

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- Kendra *red shouldered hawk* (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Dori *peregrine falcon* (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Gimli *American Kestrel* (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Hoolie *great horned owl* (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Robbie *barred owl* (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Thomas *grey screech owl* (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Rudy *red screech owl* (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 Acker Foundation    The Beckley Area Foundation  
The National Eagle Scout Association

*In loving memory of Robert L. & Ann V. Morris, William Norman Jones, Clyde Wallin & Ferdi Perrone*



**Three Rivers Avian Center**  
**2583 Brooks Mountain Road**  
**Hinton, WV 25951-5621**

*Dedicated to wild bird conservation & to educating and  
involving people in ecosystem stewardship since 1990*  
*[www.tracwv.org](http://www.tracwv.org)                      [trac@tracwv.org](mailto:trac@tracwv.org)*

