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(Your name could be here.....)

### A Very Special Thank You to:

The Beckley Area Foundation Nancy R. Smith Family Foundation  
The National Eagle Scout Association

### In loving memory of:

**William Norman Jones, Duncan Hollar, Grady McRae,  
Robert L. & Ann V. Morris, Betty Smith, Clyde Wallin**



**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 Raptor Chapter

**Volume 26 #1**  
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## The Newsletter of Three Rivers Avian Center



### Shelby Chapman: TRAC's 2017 Summer Intern

Shelby is studying for her nursing degree at Bluefield State College. Her hard work and dedication at TRAC this Summer has earned her the "Order of the Feather" award, the second intern to have received it since the award began in 1995. The Order of the Feather is given for outstanding volunteer service to Three Rivers Avian Center. *From Shelby:* "My Summer experience at Three Rivers Avian Center has been a unique one. I have learned that wildlife rehab has a lot of different sides. There is part that everyone sees, which are the success stories with the bird being healthy enough to be released back into the wild with a chance of survival that it wouldn't have had without intervention, but there is also the part that not many people want to talk about- the not so successful stories. These stories include getting in birds that are beyond repair, but there is still a lot of fuss and work over them to ensure that we give them the fighting chance needed. More often than not, our efforts are in vain and it is hard to accept, but it is worth it in the end knowing that every available chance was given to that bird. This is the most valuable experience that I have learned during my internship. I have learned how to evaluate injuries, administer medications, how to convey that I am trying to help an injured animal that is scared, to clean—but the most important lesson for me was that no matter what we do, even if we think that we won't succeed, we should still try to give the best fighting chance for the bird."

Summer Internship applications are accepted January 1 through January 31, and are available to college/university students for academic credit. Email [trac@tracwv.org](mailto:trac@tracwv.org), or pick up an application directly from our website January 1 - January 31 at: [www.tracwv.org](http://www.tracwv.org). The link will be available from the main page.





It's been a whirlwind Summer full of Environmental programming! The season started with TRAC's biannual Photography Workshop at the end of April, lead by the ever intrepid Steve Rotsch (the Fall Workshop is coming up on October 14). Then it was on to the Annual Open House and monthly free Public Tour Days. The Migration Celebration festival we hosted at Little Beaver State Park was down a bit in attendance due to bad weather - we are putting in a requisition for sunshine for next year's festival! Then it was on to 12 State Parks for our 2017 WV State Park Summer Performance tour, festivals, camps and groups. But that wasn't all!

This Summer we were also invited to have two displays at the National Scout Jamboree, a 10 day extravaganza at the Summit Bechtel National Scout Reserve in Mount Hope. One of our displays was in the WV Tent, where Education Director Ron Perrone and Summer Intern Shelby Chapman brought 3 of our Raptor Ambassadors, rotating which Ambassadors were on duty daily. Executive Director Wendy Perrone was invited to bring Regis, our Bald Eagle Ambassador for a special display in the National Eagle Scout Association ("NESA") tent where he had a prominent location. In addition, Wendy was invited to participate in the NESA Very Important Presenter series, giving a talk about the history and work of Three Rivers Avian Center. Between the two Tents, TRAC interacted with over 11,200 scouts and attendees in the span of the Jamboree!



For a complete listing of TRAC upcoming events, visit our web page at [www.tracwv.org](http://www.tracwv.org), follow us on Twitter, or watch our Facebook page: "Three Rivers Avian Center."



**TRAC's Educational Ambassador group has undergone further changes.** We are sad to announce the passing of our Red Shouldered Hawk Ambassador Kendra. She died of old age in March, at the age of 20+. On August 18 we lost Thomas, our old Eastern Screech Owl Ambassador. He was over 10 years old. They both are dearly missed. Thanks to Carla Rotsch for the photo of Kendra and to Joan Carey for the photo of Thomas.



On the good news side, we have added a new young Ambassador, a broad-winged hawk named Max. He is 1 year old. He came to us with a fused left elbow and is non-flighted. Weighing less than a pound, he has begun coming with us to our programs and is a charmer.



**Earlier this year TRAC asked for on-line donations** to help with needed repairs to the Flight Barn. We were very grateful for the fast support that not only brought in enough funds to replace the substrate in the rooms from black sand & mulch to pea gravel, but the funds also enabled us to install needed electrical outlets and more lighting, finish the back door entrance, create shelters over the interior doors to keep them out of snow and rain, replace the hallway work counter with a real table that is more firm, and to also remove 2 ash trees that were starting to drop branches. Thank you to all! For more information on TRAC improvements, visit our Facebook page (which has photos!). More facility upgrades are scheduled soon.



**O**n the rehabilitation side of things, it has been a very busy year to date. This young green heron was turned in June 22, already full of attitude and vigilance! He learned how to hunt minnows and tadpoles really well in the Flight Barn (thanks to the Morey/Seagars family for letting us seine your pond!) and was released, fully flighted and ready, at Watoga State Park in July. The name "pterodactyl" comes to mind....!

We work with all non-game species, from hummingbirds to eagles, and this year has already shown the diversity: 42 different species, of 180 + patients as of the end of August. Please remember to keep your feeders filled, suet available and bird baths clean and filled for stop-over feathered visitors during migration.

Also & as a reminder, as Fall hunting season approaches, please remember to hunt using only non-lead ammunition, and to clean your gun well before going hunting. Your family and all wildlife will appreciate it. **Visit our website for more information about the huge problem with lead ammunition: [www.tracwv.org/lead.html](http://www.tracwv.org/lead.html)**



*If you shop at Kroger, you can help TRAC! 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. 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!!*

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 informational mailing. 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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Feathered Friend Sponsorships:**

- Regis bald eagle (\$60) \_\_\_\_\_
- Nick red tailed hawk (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Harlan dark red tailed hawk (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Max broad-winged hawk (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Dori peregrine falcon (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Gimli American kestrel (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Hoolie great horned owl (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Robbie barred owl (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Riffle young barred owl (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Rudy red screech owl (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_