

On the Horizon



Horizon Wings Newsletter – Fall 2014

www.horizonwings.org

Welcome to Horizon Wings' semi-annual newsletter – On the Horizon. We would like to keep you informed of happenings, events, and news going on at Horizon Wings.

Our mission at Horizon Wings is to rehabilitate birds of prey for release into the wild, in order to maintain their population and to educate the community to enhance awareness of the environment. It is our hope by doing this that we reach people of all ages and create the desire in them to help preserve our natural world.

Chrysos the Golden Eagle Makes her Debut

On November 9, our newest educational ambassador, Chrysos the Golden Eagle, made her debut at the CT Audubon at Pomfret. The day started with Dante the Turkey Vulture, who was a bit nervous in front of the large crowd. Stevie Ray the Black Vulture was next. He appeared to enjoy all of the attention. Next, was Atka the Bald eagle who stood calmly while he was out. Finally, Chrysos came out and wowed the crowd; at 14 pounds and with a 7 foot wingspan she impressed the crowd with her sheer size. The regal beauty was transferred from Hope Douglas of Wind Over Wings in July. Even though the 14 year old eagle was a veteran of educational programs, she hadn't been out on glove for an audience for 4 years. Mary-Beth spent several weeks getting to know her and finally getting her out on glove and working with her. She is extremely calm and patient and loves to gaze into the eyes of her handler. What an amazing bird! We are truly lucky to have her as part of our education team.



All of the proceeds that were raised from this event will go to purchase food for our birds. Horizon Wings was notified in September that Charles River Labs, where we received free mice and rats, was reducing the number of bags of food from 30 bags every 6 weeks to 5 bags every 6 weeks. We have since been notified that as of the end of the year we will not be receiving any more food from Charles River. Once we found out about the reduction of food, we contacted Sarah Hemmingway from the Audubon in Pomfret to see if we could hold a fundraiser there and also debut our Golden Eagle. Sarah quickly agreed and worked with us to make this event happen. We would like to thank Sarah and the CT Audubon at Pomfret as well as all of our friends and volunteers that came out to support us. We would also like to thank Hope Douglas of Wind of Wings for choosing Horizon Wings as Chrysos' new forever home. Please continue to follow us on our website and Facebook for our future programs.

Written by Jeanne Wadsworth

Wish List

- Lumber (Plywood, 2x4s, 2x6s)
- Roofing material
- Hardware (deck screws, rafter hangers, hinges, hasps)
- Pea stone for aviary flooring
- Zip-Loc freezer bags
- Cleaning supplies (paper towels, bleach, Simple Green)
- Office supplies (Postage stamps, paper, envelopes, card stock)
- Gift cards for building supplies
- Hardware cloth
- Disposable vinyl cleaning gloves
- Small P.A. system.

Please support your local merchants whenever possible!

Atka's New Aviary

In July of 2014 Horizon Wings welcomed our newest addition "Chrysos", a beautiful Golden Eagle. With our new addition came the need for a new aviary. It was decided Chrysos would live in Atka's aviary while he moved to a temporary home in another aviary, large enough to accommodate a Bald Eagle but a little small for the Golden Eagle with her 7 foot wing span.

At around that time we were approached by Will Cooley, a Boy Scout from Mansfield Troop 56. Will was looking for a project in order to earn his Eagle Scout rank. Will and Alan worked together to draw the plans for the aviary to be submitted to the council for approval of his project. After receiving approval Will began to raise the funds needed for the aviary. In a few short weeks he managed to raise over \$1000.00 towards his project.

Then the real fun began! Painting parties to paint the lumber before building the aviary included Will's entire family as well as other members of Troop 56, Horizon Wing's volunteers and the DiRenza family from Ellington. The construction team also included Will's family and members of Troop 56. The project was begun in August and after a few short weeks, in early September Atka's aviary was completed.

Thank you to Will Cooley, his family and Boy Scout Troop 56 of Mansfield CT for their hard work.

Written by Mary-Beth Kaeser



A Sad Farewell

On Tuesday, December 2nd, we sadly had to say goodbye to Chico, our Broad-Winged Hawk ambassador. He passed peacefully after a brief illness, and will be remembered by many as a small bird full of personality.

Chico was found 7 years ago as a nestling at the bottom of his nest tree. His injuries were too severe and he was too young to make a full recovery for release to the wild, so he was trained to teach children and adults about the importance of leaving uninjured fledglings alone, as well as the incredible migration habits of Broad-Winged Hawks, and the hazards they face both here and in their winter migration lands due to clear-cutting. Chico also helped raise generations of orphaned and injured fledgling Broad-Winged Hawks in his aviary.

He was a wonderful bird that many loved, and he will be missed.

Owl Prowl 2014 - A Fantastic & Fun Fall Event!



With gratitude we can say that our 4th annual Owl Prowl fundraiser was a success! Despite rainy conditions, visitors and volunteers alike made 2014's Owl Prowl celebration unforgettable. Between fun fall treats from our donated baked goods, to our spectacular and varied raffle items, and our fun take-away crafts for the kids, there were more than just owls to see! Visitors got to learn about owls, perhaps dissect an owl pellet or two, meet our very own owls, and hear their stories! Visitors got a chance to see 5 species of owls with Oscar the Great Horned Owl, Silo the Barn Owl, Emrys the Barred Owl, Herkimer the red Eastern Screech Owl, and Sprite the Saw-Whet Owl. It was a night to remember, and we are already looking forward to next year's event. We hope to see everyone again!

Thank you to all the volunteers that gave their time and resources to make the night a success! Also, thank you to everyone that attended our event – your generosity and support makes our mission possible!

Written By Colleen Backman

2015 Horizon Wings Calendars

The 2015 Horizon Wings calendar is now available! Featuring 12 beautiful photos of our educational and rehabilitation birds, this calendar is a wonderful gift to any friend or family member who loves raptors.

These calendars are available for a \$25 donation, and can be ordered at <http://horizonwings.org/calendar.html>

All funds collected from this calendar will be used to support the birds. Every dollar donated goes towards feeding the birds, building and maintaining aviaries, and caring for sick and injured wild raptors.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



Thank You to All of Our Sponsors

- Dr. Ann Bourke
- Bolton Veterinary Hospital
- Tufts Wildlife Clinic
- Vaughn and Sheila Numrych
- Will Cooley and his family along with Boy Scout Troop 56 of Mansfield for Atka's new aviary.
- A special thank you to Hope Douglas of Wind Over Wings in Dresden Maine for giving us the opportunity to give the Golden Eagle Chrysos her new forever home, and for her support and mentorship throughout the years.
- Pfizer
- Jackson Laboratories and Mike Hyde
- Charles River
- Pam Sawyer

Thank you especially to all our wonderful volunteers who spend their time cleaning and maintaining the aviaries and grounds of Horizon Wings, helping to care for the raptors and assisting with educational programs throughout the year.

Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education
P.O. Box 238
Ashford, CT 06278

www.horizonwings.org
860-429-2181

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Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education
P.O. Box 238
Ashford, CT 06278

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Did you know? Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education is on Facebook! Visit us for current news, photos, and information on upcoming programs.