

# On the Horizon



Horizon Wings Newsletter – Summer 2014

[www.horizonwings.org](http://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.

## Atka's Debut



Atka, our Bald Eagle, made his public debut at the Babcock Library in Ashford, CT, on April 12, 2014. He was welcomed by a crowd of nearly 100 adults and children, all of whom seemed captivated by his magnificence. It was a special moment not only for the audience but for the staff of Horizon Wings as well. Atka came to Horizon Wings in April of 2011 and it has taken three years of hard work and training to get him to be program ready. Atka stood calmly on Mary-Beth's glove while she shared his story of survival, and explained the natural history of Bald Eagles in general. What a rare opportunity to be so close to our Nation's symbol!

Sharing the spotlight with Atka, were Stevie-Ray, the Black Vulture, and Dante, the Turkey Vulture. These two large birds are also found in Connecticut and are often mistaken for eagles. One of our goals was to provide tips on how to distinguish among them, especially when they are flying overhead.

If you wish to see Atka you can follow our public programs on Facebook, or by viewing our website, [www.horizonwings.org](http://www.horizonwings.org). You can

schedule a program with Atka and the other magnificent raptors in our care by calling 860-429-2181 or by emailing us at [horizonwingsraptorrehab@gmail.com](mailto:horizonwingsraptorrehab@gmail.com)

*Written by Alan Nordell*

## Wish List

### Materials:

- 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!*

# Owl Rescues

## Renesting and Reunion

On Thursday May 8, Patricia Cebrelli, a raptor rehabilitator and volunteer with Horizon Wings, responded to a wildlife call from a resident of a condominium complex in Farmington, Connecticut. The woman, as well as others in the complex, were concerned about an owlet that was spotted on the ground in a wooded area adjacent to the condos.

When the rehabber reached the site, she discovered a Barred owlet that was probably not more than 3 weeks old. He was just a helpless ball of downy feathers staring up with large dark eyes, who had somehow fallen from his nest. A thorough examination conducted on site revealed that this was a healthy bird of good weight. Soon loud warning clacks could be heard from nearby and the Barred Owl parent came into view. Fortunately, all indications pointed to the fact that this owlet was being fed on the ground and cared for by his parents. Research and experience has shown that an adult of the species can do a much better job of teaching and preparing its young for life, than can an adult. But being on the ground in this area posed possible dangers to the owlet, as he would be vulnerable to predators, household pets, and children playing. Ideally he should be placed back in the nest, but his original nesting cavity could not be located. So a plastic basket with plenty of drainage holes was fashioned and lined with twigs. With the help of some concerned neighbors, Patricia was able to secure the basket to the crook of the tree about 24 feet up and placed the owlet in it, all under the watchful eyes of his parent. Within 40 minutes the adult Barred Owl could be seen flying to her baby with a mouse in her beak!



Now the owlet would be monitored from a safe distance with binoculars for many weeks. This turned out to be a true community effort. In addition to periodically returning to the site, the rehabber received emails from several residents reporting each day on the status of the little owlet. Then, on the afternoon of May 25th, she received an email indicating that the owlet was no longer in the nest. But this was not necessarily a bad thing. At about 6 weeks, owlets usually begin branching. They leave the nest and hop from branch to branch, testing their balance and exercising their wing muscles, while still being fed by their parents. Sure enough, within hours of the concerned email, this owlet was spotted standing on a high branch, with a proud Barred Owl parent watching from the top of the tree!

**Epilogue:** As of this writing (June 24th), the owlet has grown as big as his parents and is flying well. He will remain with his parents and continue to learn from them until the Autumn. Then, as a juvenile, he will be ready to set out and find his own territory.

*Written by Patricia Cebrelli*

## Barred Owl Chimney Rescue



On the morning of April 19th we received a call from a woman in Griswold, CT stating she had an owl caught in her chimney. She woke up early in the morning and heard an owl hooting and thought it sounded really close. When she walked outside to listen for it, she realized that it was in her house some-

where. Finally she pinpointed it and realized that it was in her chimney. She called Horizon Wings and Jeanne and Sandy made the drive out for the rescue.

We drove down a long driveway going further into the woods and came up to house with a large uncapped chimney; we went into the home and saw that it was a walk in fireplace. We were able to remove the damper and shine a light up the chimney and spotted the Barred owl up about 5 feet hanging onto a ledge. With the assistance of the homeowners, we were able to use a broom, net, and gloves to safely remove the owl. After a thorough examination, we were able to walk outside and successfully release the owl back to the woods. The happy homeowners were already making plans to cap their chimney so they didn't get any more unexpected guests.

*Written by Jeanne Wadsworth*

## Owl Prowl 2014

Come with your family and join us at Horizon Wings for our 5th annual Owl Prowl. This is your chance to be up close and personal with 5 amazing species of owls, learn cool facts and get all your questions answered. Enjoy complimentary coffee, hot cider, and baked goods, participate in a variety of fun and informative activities and crafts, and take a chance on some of our unique (owl related, of course) raffle items.

We look forward to seeing you!

Saturday, October 18th

6:00 pm-8:30pm

Adults \$5 Children \$2

Heavy rain cancels event. No rain date.

Horizon Wings

9 Sand Hill Road, Ashford CT

Phone : 860-429-2181

Homepage: [www.horizonwings.org](http://www.horizonwings.org)

e-mail: [horizonwingsraptorrehab@gmail.com](mailto:horizonwingsraptorrehab@gmail.com)



# Earth Day 2014 – Not Even Rain Could Stop Another Great Event!

With gratitude to all of those that came out to see our 4th annual Earth Day: even though it was a rainy day, we can say with much joy that it was an amazing success!

This year crowds were awed with various birds out for everyone to see and hear about, in addition to two formal programs with Atka the Eagle! But it didn't stop there; there was also story time with Oscar the Great Horned Owl, crafts for the kids to take home to support Earth friendly practices, face painting by Adria Mecca, and educational tables for our inquisitive visitors! Not only were guests entertained with the presence of the fun llama with Carol Milliard from Misty Meadows in Ashford, CT again this year, but we also had a few additions with an adorable ram and lamb from The Bourkes from Cairn O'Mohr Farm, also in Ashford, CT. During all of this we had baked goods and various drinks that were donated by gracious volunteers. To end all of the fun, there were our wide range of raffle items that included one of a kind art pieces and fun kites to fly! And above all, the rain that all the visitors so happily ignored did not dampen the day. The entire event surpassed our financial expectations yet again, and everyone's presence made our 2014 Earth Day Event unforgettable!

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

*Written by Colleen Backman*

## Welcome Chrysos

Horizon Wings wishes to welcome Chrysos, the newest member of our team of educational ambassadors.

Chrysos is a 14-year-old female Golden Eagle. She came to us from Wind Over Wings in Dresden Maine.

Chrysos originally came from Utah where she was hit by a truck causing multiple injuries, including permanent damage to her right wrist. She was estimated to be 2 years old at that time.

The Golden Eagle is one of the largest raptors in North America. Gold feathers shine on the back of its head and neck. They are great hunters using their powerful beaks and talons they can bring down prey the size of coyotes. They are most likely to be seen in western North America.

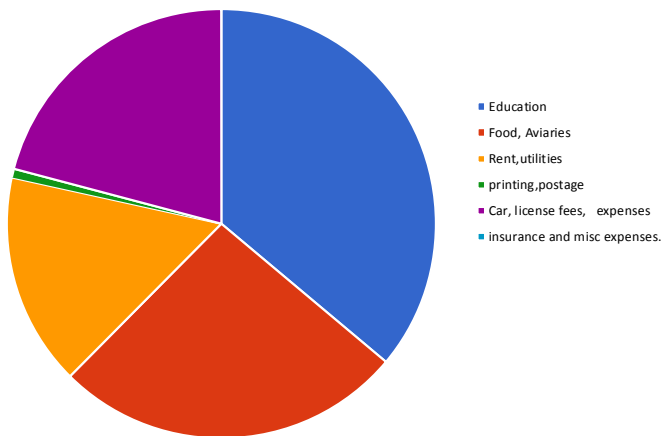


We look forward to the day when Chrysos joins our team of traveling ambassadors!

*Written by Mary-Beth Kaeser*

## Horizon Wings Annual Financial Report: 2013

Total expenses



Expenses	Total
Education	\$16,939
Food, Aviaries	\$12,350
Rent, Utilities	\$7,506
Printing, Postage	\$311
Car License Fees, Insurance and Misc. Expenses	\$9,793

Income	Total	Percentage
Contributions, Gifts and Grants	\$46,901	100%

Horizon Wings would like to thank Vaughn and Sheila Numrych for their generous donations, and the matching amounts made possible by Cigna. Thank you so much for helping Horizon Wings grow!

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

www.horizonwings.org  
860-429-2181

Would you like to help Horizon Wings? Fill this form out and mail back with a donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be added to our email mailing list? Yes  No

Mail to:

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.**