

## **2015 WAS A RECORD YEAR FOR BIRDS OF PREY NORTHWEST**

The very first admission of 2015 to Birds of Prey Northwest was a bald eagle, and the final patient admitted for medical treatment in 2015 was a beautiful and rare great gray owl. Between those two events, it was quite a year!

We saw a record number of bald and golden eagles admitted to our facility in our 22<sup>nd</sup> year of providing medical care to injured raptors in need, under special permits from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Idaho Fish and Game. We treated over one hundred other raptors including red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, saw-whet owls, Cooper's hawks, prairie falcons, ospreys, screech owls, pygmy owls, and kestrels.



In November, a Pacific Northwest storm with record winds toppled large trees that damaged several of our aviaries. We have already repaired one aviary and will soon have the others rebuilt. Our resilience in the face of such challenges is strengthened by your support.

*We are extremely thankful for all of the gifts and help we have received in 2015, and hope you will continue to support our work in 2016, which marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the international Migratory Bird Treaty. Our work is a collaboration among Birds of Prey Northwest staff and volunteers, state and federal agencies that issue our permits, and the many citizens who rescue injured raptors and count on us as a resource to provide medical care. We often remind people it takes a village to recover an injured raptor and return it to the wild. Thanks for doing your part!*

*Janie Veltkamp, Director, Birds of Prey Northwest*

### **BEAUTY TURNS 15!**

In 2016 we will have great news to share, including celebration of Beauty the bald eagle's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday! The story of Beauty's shattered beak and her first-of-its-kind prosthetic beak—made with 3D printing—continues to draw inquiries from media, students, teachers, wildlife professionals, engineers and many others across the country and around the world.



## ***EXTRAORDINARY GIFTS in 2015***

### **NEW EDUCATION VAN**



We are very grateful that 2015 saw a record number of donors to BOPNW, and extraordinary gifts to cover the needs of increasing rehabilitation demands and our expanding education efforts. On Labor Day, Greg Walmsley from Oxarc Welding in Coeur d'Alene donated a beautiful Mercedes van complete with graphics provided by Keith Powell. BOPNW was in desperate need of a replacement

vehicle for transporting raptors to our educational programs in Idaho and other states, which reach thousands of people of all ages. The van replaced our old 1998 Tahoe which had 250,000 miles.

### **NEW EAGLE RUN**

With so many eagles to treat and return to the wild whenever possible, we began construction of one of the largest eagle flight run aviaries in the Western United States. When completed in 2016, the eagle run will let us give our largest patients the room they need to re-strengthen their muscles and promote cardiovascular conditioning before we return them to the wild.

The eagle run project has been four years in the making, conceived and managed by BOPNW Director Janie Veltkamp. Birds of Prey Northwest extends huge thanks to the following for their expertise and contribution of materials:

- Anonymous donor for gift of \$25,000
- Avista Utilities, Spokane, WA for installing infrastructure
- Brad Corkill of Whiteman Lumber, Kingston, ID for donating materials
- Buell Trucking, St. Maries, ID for delivering materials
- McFarland Cascade, British Columbia, Canada for providing fundamental materials
- Sid Clark, an engineer from St. Maries, ID with forestry background, for design

## MEALS ON REELS



In mid-June, the "Meals on Reels" Fishing Derby in Sandpoint provided us nearly one thousand fish for food, caught by participating derby teams, to nourish the fish-eating raptors we treat. The event raised thousands of dollars in cash contributions for purposes including purchase of a new freezer to store all that food. The derby also garnered a new wave of volunteers on behalf of

BOPNW and helped the environment by removing trash fish from Lake Pend Oreille. The derby was the brainchild of Jack Knaggs, and was implemented by Tamara Verby, Carol Winget, and Dyno Wahl of the Sandpoint Arts Festival.

## **PUBLIC AND SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Our year-round educational programs are growing in both frequency and size. In 2015, we reached thousands of people of all ages in several states, at sites including schools, libraries, government-managed facilities, assisted living and retirement communities, and public festivals.

- We expanded our live educational program with the addition of another peregrine falcon, subspecies *Peales*, and a rare Arctic gyrfalcon to our dozen ambassador birds. All of these educational raptors are held on special permits from both U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Idaho Fish and Game.
- On July 4<sup>th</sup>, we provided three back-to-back live bird of prey programs at Hayden Lake for hundreds of people.
- In Libby, Montana at the Army Corp of Engineers Libby Dam, we provided a unique presentation of six raptor species – red tailed hawk, great horned owl, Swainson's hawk, peregrine falcon, osprey, and bald eagle. Over 350 people came face to face with the perched raptors and talked with BOPNW experts about them. The previous day, we educated fourth graders at Libby Elementary with the same birds.
- At Kootenai county library programs for communities in Athol and Spirit Lake, BOPNW drew rave reviews about our live bird of prey programs.



## **COLLEAGUES, VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS**



Our rehabilitation and education efforts would not be possible without the substantial help and support from our volunteer veterinary staff at Animal Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Animal Hospital and Emergency Pet Clinic in Post Falls, and North Idaho Animal Hospital in Sandpoint. Our internship program gives us much needed extra hands and

hearts, and in 2015 we welcomed interns Andrea Wilkey, Elliot Michaelis, Keaton Buell, and Melissa Murillo, all graduates of university wildlife science programs. Additionally, biologists from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Natural Resources Department built a new aviary for us. Luckily, Scotty's Tree Service staff donated their time to take down trees that had high potential for falling and damaging our aviaries, or we would have suffered much greater damage from November's storm. Idaho Fish and Game Officers Julie Lininger and Rob Morris work with us in many ways. Wayne Melquist, retired from Idaho Fish and Game, helps us band the eagles we return to the wild, and Falconer Scott Dinger helps us rescue and handle eagles. Julie and Robert Randall, our favorite counterparts in Twin Falls, Idaho transport golden eagles in need of care from southern Idaho to our facility.

Birds of Prey Northwest Chairman of the Board Don Veltkamp not only works hands-on with our raptors, especially Rusty the red-tailed hawk, but serves tirelessly as our chairman and significantly supports our organization's financial health. Anita Magnuson and Jan Nieffeneger have raised thousands of dollars for us through sponsorships and private donations. Kristen Veltkamp launched and maintains our website and Facebook page. Wildlife communications expert Deborah Rose helps us get the word out nationwide and worldwide about our critical work.



Thank you to everyone!