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top-bottom: Shannon Egendoerfer's photo of a wild turkey; Rob Schar's photo of a white-tailed deer.

November's theme was "Catch the Turkey," seeking submissions of Wild Turkeys or other native birds.

Shannon Egendoerfer won with her image of a Wild Turkey. She said, "I love nature and wildlife, as well as photography. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is a wonderful place to enjoy all three. This photo was taken on 5/2/14 at The Great Marsh Trail in Beverly Shores. He was up ahead of me on the trail, just strutting along."

October's theme was "Fall in Love with Native Indiana Wildlife," with submissions of native mammals enjoying autumn's splendor.

Rob Schar photographed a male White-tailed Deer for his winning entry. "We are very fortunate to live outside of Valparaiso (closer to Westville, actually). Living out in the country our yard is always active with our wild neighbors. Every day is a picture taking opportunity, with bucks, does, fawns, foxes, raccoons (who try to eat all of the bird feed we put out), an occasional possum walking by, along with squirrels and of course all of our visiting birds and geese. We keep our camera handy. When this big buck came by I had to take the picture. I used a Canon E-60 with a 200mm lens."

Thank you to all those who submitted beautiful photos of Indiana wildlife.

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Matt Harmon's grand prize photo of a Dark-eyed Junco.

## Photo Contest 2014

MRWRC held our annual photo contest this year, offering three different themes over three months. A grand prize winner was chosen from the three winners and featured in Humane Society Calumet Area's Speak! Magazine.

December's theme was "Winter Wonderland," where photographers were encouraged to capture images of resident winter wildlife in snowy scenes. Matt Harmon won the December contest and the Grand Prize with his photo (above) of a Dark-eyed Junco. Harmon said, "I'm a South Bend local birder and amateur photographer wanting to share my enthusiasm for the feathered."

### Continued with photos on page 4

Staff: Stephanie Kadletz, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator  
 Veterinary Advisor - Dr. Rachael Jones  
 Special Thanks: Southland Veterinary Hospital, Jake's Feed & Garden, and Chesterton Feed & Garden  
 Newsletter Sponsors: Judith Cieslak and Jean Prebis

# Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehab Center

A subsidiary of Humane Society Calumet Area

570 North 450 East  
 Valparaiso, IN 46383  
 (219) 299-8027

[www.mrwildliferehab.org](http://www.mrwildliferehab.org)

## Native Plants: Natural Garden Pest Control

By: Judith Cieslak

Spring will soon soothe our winter weary souls and stimulate our gardening instincts. Let's not forget how our work with plants in the yard and garden impacts our native wildlife. While planning your garden, think about including plants that will benefit them and help balance the cycle of life in your own small ecosystem.

Butterflies, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals are all dependent on the availability of food, water, shelter, and nesting sites for their survival and we human mammals benefit from their survival in a balanced ecosystem. A good example of this is insects. They bug us! We may reach for the can of chemical pesticide to get rid of them because they destroy flowers, trees, and shrubs. This is a mistake. Many of the birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals in our environment survive by eating insects. By poisoning the insects, you also poison the birds, the animals that feed on them, and the beneficial insects (bees, butterflies) that pollinate our gardens. Pesticides also destroy the soil microorganisms that keep our soil fertile and friable.

Instead of using chemicals to control pests, encourage native wildlife to help you overcome the predatory insects. If you provide a welcoming environment, they will eat your bugs, fertilize your soil, pollinate your flowers, and provide you with the pleasure that comes from seeing them going about the business of their lives.

Birds, butterflies, and bees are attracted by a number of native flowering plants including cone flowers, bee balm, joe pye weed, and coreopsis that will enhance the beauty of your garden. Local garden centers can help you make other selections as well. Should you have some milkweed plants growing somewhere in your yard, don't pull them as weeds. They are primary egg laying sites for Monarch butterflies.

## MRWRC: 2014 in Review

By: Judith Cieslak

Last year was a banner year for the Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehabilitation Center! After many years of fund-raising and volunteer work to acquire a site, build a building, initiate an educational outreach program, and develop an ambitious and realistic plan for the future, MRWRC became a subsidiary of Humane Society Calumet Area, and at long last became a fully functioning native wildlife rehabilitation center. For countless members of the Northwest Indiana community who have contributed their talents and energy and financial support, this is the fulfillment of a long cherished dream.



Since opening its doors to wildlife needing its services on July 1, 2014, the center treated and rehabilitated 111 animals including: 15 species of mammals, seven species of birds, and four species of reptiles and amphibians. Four orphaned raccoons, born too late in the season to be ready for fall release, wintered over at the center.

The care of injured and orphaned wildlife is lead by Stephanie Kadletz, a full-time, paid rehabilitator.

### How can you help?

- There are many ways in which you can help support MRWRC and the wildlife in our care.
- Make a monthly monetary payment through Paypal.
- Donate an item on our wildlife wish list.
- Attend an event hosted by MRWRC or Humane Society Calumet Area.
- Become a Community Partner or sponsor the care of a wild animal in rehabilitation.
- Become a volunteer or intern.
- Log on to: [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and search the web, shop, and complete surveys.
- Purchase an item on our Amazon Wish List.
- Save your aluminum cans and bring them to our center.

With the support of the community and caring individuals such as you, we can make a difference in the lives of many wild animals in need. We thank you for your continued support!

Stephanie is licensed to rehabilitate native wildlife by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and migratory birds by the US Fish and Wildlife. She comes to us from Navarre, FL, with extensive experience as a wildlife rescuer and rehabilitator. She holds a degree in Zoo Science from University of West Florida. She has been the prime mover in developing and actualizing the rescue and rehabilitation program at MRWRC.

In the last year, we have grown the rehabilitation program, attracted and trained 36 volunteers, continued the development of the educational outreach program and expanded the fund-raising activities of the Center. Kadletz has worked with the Porter County Wildlife Advisory Board to secure funds for a 100-foot flight cage

to be used for the rehabilitation of raptors. Additionally, two spacious cages are under construction for the display of native wildlife for educational purposes with funding (\$1,500) provided by the Steiger Family.

Thank you for supporting our efforts over the years. With such impressive progress in so short a time, the future of MRWRC looks exceedingly bright.

### Upcoming Events

#### MRWRC Anniversary Open House/ Supply Drive

- April 11, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Help celebrate our 1-year anniversary and bring something from the wish list for the wild animals. Kid's crafts and snacks will be available. Meet a live owl and learn about its many adaptations.

**Northwest Indiana Earth Day Festival** – April 25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Visit us at our booth

**Silent Art Auction** - May 8, 6pm to 9 p.m., at White Key Gallery in Valparaiso, Ind.

**Calling all artists!** Please consider making a donation of your handmade art in support of the wildlife cared for by MRWRC. All art - including photos, paintings, jewelry, statues, or other media - is needed.

**Porter County Wildlife Celebration Event** – May 30, – We have partnered with the Porter County Wildlife Advisory Board for this wonder celebration of wildlife.



## Our Wildlife Friends in Winter

Stephanie Kadletz, Licensed Rehabilitator

Indiana winters can be brutal to us, but have you ever wondered how our resident birds and mammals survive during the harsh winter months? We know many bird species migrate south to warmer climates to escape the snow and cold, but some species stay, using various adaptation to survive the cold. You can help make the cold months easier for them as well.

Northern Cardinals, Black-Capped Chickadees, and White Breasted Nuthatches are a few of our overwintering species found throughout Northwest Indiana. Although these birds weigh less than two ounces, - with the Chickadee weighing in at a mere 0.5 oz.- birds have a natural winter coat made of downy feathers, that helps insulate their bodies. They will often fluff up their feathers which helps regulate their body temperature by trapping warm air closer to their body. Some bird species go into a semi-hibernated state called "torpor," which drastically lowers their body temperature. Hummingbirds, for example, uses 50 times less energy when in torpor than when awake. Other methods birds use to keep warm are accessing fat reserves, shivering, tucking, constricting blood flow to legs and feet, sunning, and roosting in flocks.

Most mammal species don't migrate, and start preparing for winter in the fall. Squirrels and chipmunks collect and cache their food for easy access when food is limited in winter. Squirrels will eat up to 10 percent of their body weight each day, which amounts to A LOT of food. This helps with the needed amount of energy to keep warm.

### How to help our wild friends during the freezing winter months:

- Provide multiple bird feeders with different types of seeds for a variety of different species. Suet logs are enjoyed by many bird species and provide high energy nutrition.
- Leave dead trees or hollow logs that have fallen. Hollow logs and trees provide shelter for many bird and mammal species all year long.
- Provide appropriate nesting/housing boxes on trees for bats, owls, songbirds, and squirrels to use during winter or throughout the year.

### To Transport Wildlife:

- Call your local wildlife rehabilitator before removing the animal unless it is in immediate danger.
- Never touch an animal with bare hands.
- Gently pick the animal up with gloves and/or a towel.
- Place the animal in a secure container (box or kennel).
- Keep the animal in a dark, warm, quiet location.
- Transport the animal immediately to the closest licensed wildlife rehabilitator.
- Never expose the animal to extreme heat or cold.

## Honor Your Loved Ones

If you would like to make a donation in memory or in honor of a person or pet:

-Send your gift to the MRWRC at 570 N 450 E, Valparaiso, IN 46383

-Enclose a note with your donation with the name of the deceased, whether the deceased is a person or pet, the name and address of the family to be notified of your gift, and your contact information.

-Memorial/Honor donation envelopes are available at the center by request.



### Wishlist –

- Non-auto shut-off heating pads
- Baby blankets
- Laundry/dish & hand soap/bleach
- Trash bags
- Latex gloves
- Crab/fishing nets
- Plastic storage totes with lids (sm & lg)
- Reptariums
- Raw chicken/pork/beef
- Eggs, cheese, and yogurt
- Mealworms and crickets
- Bird seed – all varieties
- HP 950XL and 951 ink cartridges
- Lawnmower
- Rescue vehicle
- Gift cards for local feed stores, pet shops, and hardware stores

For a complete list of need items, visit our website: [www.mrwildliferehab.org/donate.asp](http://www.mrwildliferehab.org/donate.asp)