

# Hoo's Woods Raptor Center

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Raptor Rehabilitation and Educational Programs since 1999

## Holiday Newsletter 2011

### Season's Greetings!

As the holiday season approaches we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Your contributions make a difference in many ways. 2011 proved to be a busy and exciting year allowing us many new opportunities in raptor education and rehabilitation.

Your generosity and support has opened many doors and for that we are truly grateful. In 2009 I was able to represent the USA at the International Falconry Festival in England where I met many other raptor experts from around the world. Those contacts allowed me to participate at the first Women's European Raptor Meet in Belgium this fall. Since returning from Belgium I received a formal invitation from the United Arab Emirates Falconry Club to officially represent the USA at this year's International Falconry Festival in Abu Dhabi. I will tell you more about this, but first I'd like to share my recent experience in Belgium.

My daughter in law Alissa Moller, a Hoo's Woods director, traveled with me to Belgium. We stayed at my friend Veronique's home in Brussels along with several other European women and another American eagle expert. We spent much of our time in the countryside flying, observing, training and hunting with falcons and hawks. We immediately became fast friends sharing information, stories and laughs.



*In Belgium, with participants from Scotland, USA, Holland, France and Germany*



*Statue of Queen Marie de Bourgogne in Bruges, Belgium holding her beloved falcon*

This experience allowed me the opportunity to exchange knowledge about many of the environmental issues concerning birds of prey as well as training and conditioning. Many countries in Europe are still working toward implementing wildlife laws and regulations. They recognize the United States as leaders in setting precedence in protecting and preserving the environment. Wildlife rehabilitation is something very new in many parts of the world. We have many freedoms in the U.S. that most other countries envy. For example, there is no such thing as "public land" in Europe, every inch of land is owned by someone. I can't imagine having to rent a small space to fish along a river or lake, can you? In some countries like Holland you can only possess a captive bred peregrine or goshawk. No other raptors are legal to possess for education or falconry. They were amazed by the different species of birds I am allowed for my education programs. In some countries like Germany, it is still legal to shoot raptors. I was asked many questions about rehabilitation, since it is almost non-existent in many places. We are fortunate to have laws that protect our resources

as well as allow us to care for them. On the last day of our visit, Veronique took me to the city of Bruges where she grew up. It was built in 500 AD with many of the original buildings still standing today. She took us to meet her mother, Paulette who is 85, a respected artist who survived WWII as a young girl. Paulette still lives in their family country home that was built in the 1700's during the reign of Napoleon. It was truly an experience of a lifetime and one I will continue to share for years to come through my raptor education programs.

Thank you to those who sponsored these trips to make them possible.

## **International Falconry Festival Abu Dhabi December 11-18, 2011**

As I mentioned in my previous article, I have been selected to represent the United States at this year's International Falconry Festival in Abu Dhabi, December 11-18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. I am one of four individuals sponsored by the United Arab Emirates, the only female. This truly is quite an honor to represent my country. People have been asking me many questions about this event. What is the festival? What is my role? Will I be taking birds? Is my husband going with me? Do I need to wear a burka?

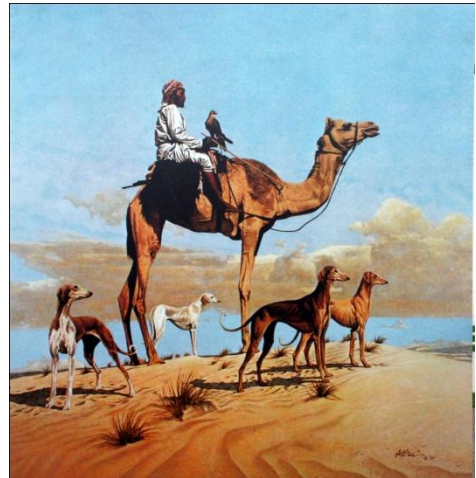
To summarize: It's a worldwide event that celebrates falconry's contribution to education, rehabilitation, heritage, science, conservation and art. There will be many meetings with dignitaries, representatives and government officials from all over the world to discuss politics, environmental and conservation issues during the week. I have been asked to participate in these discussions and will be making three presentations: *Landfill Burns and Raptors*, *The Formation of an International Women's Raptor Network Group*, and *Conservation and Education*- where I will be featuring the "Peregrine Falcon" poster many of you supported in the past.

We will also be visiting the raptor rehabilitation hospital in Abu Dhabi, the largest in the world. Two U.S. veterinarians whose names you might recognize will be speaking there as well; Dr. Pat Redig from the Minnesota Raptor Center and Dr. Ken Riddle from Oklahoma. I will not be taking birds due to quarantine issues. However there will be plenty of opportunities for us to see flight demonstrations.

My husband David will not be going with me. Although my travel and hotel are being paid for, other expenditures are not and the extra plane fare is very expensive. Abu Dhabi is located in the Persian Gulf, a country the size of Rock County. It is very westernized so no I do not need to wear a burka, just a head scarf if I go to a Mosque and to cover my shoulders at all times.

I am very excited about the opportunity to represent my country and community. I will be able to tell them what life is like in this area, how giving and generous you are and of your concern for the rights of people and wildlife.

It is my intent to share a program with my community about my recent travels so I may give something back to you. I hope you will continue to support us so we may continue our work in wildlife rehabilitation and education both here and around the world. These experiences provide an increase in education that provides benefits for both our center and you.



## A Recap of 2011

### Education

We presented over 75 raptor education programs this year to many schools, libraries, scouts and groups. Some of the places we visited in 2011 include; Cassville Bald Eagle Days, Evansville School Energy Fair, Camp Edwards Women's Wellness, Hawk Watch-Effigy Mounds, many schools, scouts, conservation groups and libraries. We will close the year by traveling to Abu Dhabi, educating many adults and school age children and distributing our raptor education poster, "*They're Back- Peregrine Falcon.*"

### Rehabilitation

2011 was one of the busiest years in my 16 years of raptor rehabilitation. We admitted over 60 raptors with a 45% successful release rate. That's our best average to date. We admitted a few uncommon species including a merlin falcon and broadwing hawks. I'm pleased to report there have been no further occurrences of raptors recovered at the Janesville landfill since making modifications to the burners in 2008. One of the last rescues of 2011 was while I was away on business in Utah. My husband Dave successfully rehabilitated a Great Horned owl found by a 17-year-old boy near Afton. Way to go Dave!



Our **Annual Open House** held in June was well attended with over 200 people in attendance. We provided tours of our facility and had a lot of fun together. We plan to host another event in 2012 and will provide details at a later date.

### Volunteers

We'd like to extend a big thank you to our veterinarian, Diane Zilker, Token Creek Veterinary Hospital Sun Prairie, and our volunteers for their time and efforts this past year to assist us. We couldn't do it without you! We would like to thank Dalton Miatke, UW Whitewater student, for maintaining our website. Many people ask who takes care of the birds while we are away? Typically, both Dave and I are not gone at the same time. However, in November our daughter Mandy was married in California. Our friends Gary and Penny Shackelford and Cindy Dittman did an outstanding job in caring for the animals while we were away. We sincerely thank them for their time and efforts. I would like to share with you, Penny mentioned she noticed when the bald eagle would vocalize our donkeys would too. It all seemed to be food related. We hadn't noticed this before and find it rather humorous.



### Giving

Please remember it is through your donations that we are able to maintain a high level of quality care for the birds along with continued excellence in our raptor education programs. We ask you to consider taking the opportunity to make one last donation this year. Not only are you helping a great cause, your support exposes our community worldwide as we share our programs with others.

Oh ya by the way when you give to Hoo's Woods your gifts are tax-deductable! Your gift can make a difference next year for our organization and the people you serve. May the holiday season be filled with joy and happiness for you and your family. We look forward to working with you in the coming year and hope our business relationship continues for many years to come.

Warm regards,  
Dianne and David Moller

# Adopt a Raptor



The sponsorship packet includes: a professional photo of the raptor of your choice, an informational sheet and personalized certificate of sponsorship. Your tax deductible donation of \$50.00 includes adopting one of the following raptor species: bald eagle, golden eagle, barn owl, barred owl, great horned owl, short eared owl, screech owl, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, American kestrel, red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk, merlin falcon or vulture.

Thank you for supporting the Hoo's Woods education program through a donation or by Adopting a Raptor.

## **Costs in maintaining these raptors include:**

**Utilities and Food Purchases:** whole quail, chickens, mice, rats

**Freezer Space:** running non-stop

**Enclosure Maintenance:** perches, screening, heat & fans

**Daily Care:** 365 days worth of food, feeding, watering, maintaining a healthy and clean environment

**Insurance:** to allow for birds in the classroom

**Driving to Programs, etc:** nearly 10,000 miles last year

**Web Site:** constant updates, registration of domain name, web-related technical assistance

**Paperwork:** to maintain four Federal & State permits, program information, budget, and correspondences, special events, solicit sponsorship, magazine articles

YES, I want to sponsor Hoo's Woods with this tax-deductible contribution:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution amount or Adopted Raptor \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit to: Hoo's Woods, P.O. Box 21, Milton, WI  
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