



# ON THE WINGS OF EAGLES...

THE AMERICAN BALD EAGLE  
FOUNDATION

JULY 2011

## WELCOME TO THE AMERICAN BALD EAGLE FOUNDATION & LIVE RAPTOR CENTER!

### What is the American Bald Eagle Foundation?

Founded in 1982 by Dave Olerud of Haines, Alaska, the American Bald Eagle Foundation was created to share the miracle of nature in the Chilkat Valley. Coincidentally, the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve was created the same year as the foundation. In 1987, construction began on a natural history museum to house the many specimens necessary to share the miracle of the Chilkat Valley with visitors from around the world. But before the museum could be completed, a major support wall collapsed on Dave Olerud, breaking his back and causing him to be permanently paralyzed from the waist down. From 1988 until 1993 Dave struggled through rehabilitation and the building languished in its incomplete state. Construction was then resumed and the building completed in June 1994. On July 14, 1994, the American Bald Eagle Foundation National History Museum (ABEF) opened its doors to the public for the first time. The original museum housed 61 specimens and measured 3,000 square feet in area. In 1998, the museum was enlarged to over 7,000 square feet and the specimen count reached 180. Today the ABEF is over 10,000 sq. feet with over 200 specimens including a Live Raptor Center. The American Bald Eagle Foundation is a 501 c (3), non-profit educational and research organization dedicated to the conservation of the American Bald Eagle and its natural habitat. The ABEF is a totally self-supporting entity that funds its programs through gift shop sales, admission fees, membership fees, grants, and donations. Its sole purpose is to educate the largest number of persons possible through its research and education programs. The ABEF has grown from a local museum to an international conservation organization with members in nearly all of the 50 states and seven countries. These members vary from elementary school students to corporate members, benefactors, and patrons, active and retired scientists, and the everyday visitor. Memberships vary from \$35.00 for individuals to \$1,000.00 for a lifetime members with several categories in between to ensure that every budget can find just the right membership level.



Find us at:  
[www.baldeagles.org](http://www.baldeagles.org)  
Or  
On Facebook:  
American Bald  
Eagle  
Foundation

**“American Bald Eagle Foundation 2011”**

THE AMERICAN BALD  
EAGLE FOUNDATION

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1988 - 2005

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1982 - 2005

**INTRODUCING OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS & STAFF**

The ABEF hosted its 1st Student bird handlers class this Spring. The class was taught by Dr. Dan Hart, Our Raptor Curator. The students studied the anatomy, diet, and handling procedures of our birds with Dr. Hart. They learned how to prepare the food for them as well as weighing the birds to maintain a healthy weight. Our students learned how to make cuffs and jesses and the proper way to put them on the birds as well as learning how to hold them on a glove safely. These students came in this summer to help take care of the birds as well as give presentations to the cruise ship guest.



**Dr. Dan Hart ,  
Raptor Curator  
& with Lydia  
Shaye, Lyric,  
Gabriela, Samantha,  
Mikayla, Lindsey,  
Natalie & Lydia**



**Cheryl  
McRoberts,  
Director of  
Operations**



**Dave Olerud  
our Founder  
with Hunter our  
Barred Owl**



**Ruth & Ben Fairall** are back for another season. This year Ruth can be found at our Front desk and Gift shop, while Ben has been helping out in maintenance. They are ready to greet each and every guest as they come through the front door! Miss Ruth and her husband came to Haines in 2000 and ended up buying a home overlooking Portage Cove. The ABEF is grateful for their help and we are happy to have Miss Ruth and Ben sharing their time with us at the Foundation.

**April & "Zilla" a Lanner-Saker  
Falcon**

April Francis has been volunteering at the ABEF for over 8 months and has logged over 300 hours. April has been a welcome addition to the ABEF and has learned so much. April is attending school for a Business Administration and raising her baby daughter Kendall.





**Ed Podgorski , Our New Raptor Handler & Sarah our Great Horned Owl.** We are pleased to introduce you to Ed, from Wasilla, AK Ed is our new full time employee who comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience to help handle our Raptor Program. Ed retired as a Aircraft Mechanic to fulfill his dream and make a living doing what he loves.



**Matt Wilson**, an intern who came to us from The Southeastern Raptor Center at Auburn University . A graduating Senior in Communication. Matt has been a great asset to us this summer. He has 4 years of Raptor handling experience training from the Southeastern Raptor Center at Auburn University. Matt states "Being at the Foundation for the summer is a once in a lifetime experience"



**Scott Clem** from the Southeastern Raptor Center at Auburn University is a junior in Zoology. Scott comes to us with 2 years of Raptor handling and training experience. Because of his background and experience especially with hawks, Scott has come to be known as the "Hawk Man" Scott has been taking every advantage Alaska has to offer him including fishing, hiking, rock climbing every chance he gets!



**Eddie & Carolyn Vanlingen**, Our "Workampers" from Colorado, recently retired and applied for our "Workamper " Program for the summer. We are eternally grateful for their hard work. They can be found most days at the front admission desk , in the Gift shop although ,Eddie had no idea he would be retiring to come to Alaska to construct Sea Lion Skeletons! Carolyn has our Museum shining from the floors to our Eagles flying from the rafters, and selling out the gift shop!! Eddie drove their Trike in the 4th of July parade and give our Mascot Eagle a ride! While Carolyn and our interns followed behind and tossed Candy and free admission to the Children along the parade route!



**Don Scheffler** , an intern who has joined us from Indiana will be with us for the next 3 months fulfilling his passion for wildlife education. Don's goal is to train to be a Raptor Handler and continue his service to injured birds of Prey and we are so grateful to have him this summer.

**Jamie & "Hunter" Barred Owl**  
**Jamie Perry**, One of our Volunteers who will be doing a internship this summer. Jamie has over 200 hours so far of Volunteering and has been a tremendous asset to us. Jamie is married to Zac Perry who is stationed in Iraq. Jamie states: I couldn't be a luckier girl. Jamie is attending school for veterinarian assistant and has logged over 400 volunteer hours with us.



## MEET OUR BIRDS

### **"ZILLA" OUR LANNER SAKER FALCON**



Zilla is a Lanner-Saker Falcon. She is a imprint bird meaning she was raised in captivity as a hunting bird for a falconer. She is a glove trained, fully flighted falcon in training to do programs at the ABEF. Zilla will be participating in our daily bird presentations, and soon we will have her flying back and forth between handlers and flying after her lure. These falcons can fly up to 200 mph in a dive to catch their prey. She is a bird of open plains and desert-type habitats, breeding in middle Europe eastward into Asia. She is a bold and ferocious falcon, attacking prey much larger than itself; it is greatly favored by Falconers. Like other falcons, this falcon is equipped with sharp, curved talons for grasping prey, while the strong, hooked beak is used to tear its victim's flesh. We are very fortunate to have her as an educational bird in our program. Zilla was donated to the ABEF by a falconer thru the Southeastern Raptor Center of Auburn University.

### **"HUNTER" OUR BARRED OWL**



Hunter was found in Juneau with a fractured right wing. He was taken to Juneau raptor center where they pinned his wing back together. Unfortunately, the bone healed but the wrist joint fused in his wing. Hunter can raise his wing but cannot extend it, so he is unable to fly. Hunter has become our "Superstar" and can usually be found sitting on his perch watching the visitors come through the museum. Barred owls are appropriately called hoot owls as they are one of the few who make hooting sounds or calls. Some owls are nocturnal creatures and are most active during the night. His chest has numerous "bars" on it which is where the barred owl gets its name. They will eat most anything but prefer voles, shrews, mice, rats, squirrels, grouse, quail, jays, fish, frogs, snakes and even turtles. These owls are found in a wide swath of the USA from Florida to Southeast Alaska. If your walking in the woods and hear "Who cooks, Who cooks for you all" Look up, It will be a barred owl!

### **"SARAH" OUR GREAT HORNED OWL**



Sarah our "Great Horned Owl" was rehabilitated by the AK Wildlife Rehab Center in Wasilla, AK. Her injuries include two fractured wings which have affected her flying abilities to hunt. Great horned owls have fully feathered feet and powerful talons. What appear to be "ears or horns" are actually tufts of feathers. However these owls use their ears far more than their eyes to find and locate their prey. Their extremely large eyes are then used as a confirmation before the strike. Owls can turn their heads a full 270 degrees in either direction. These owls can live up to 13 years in the wild. However, in captivity, they have survived as long as 39 years. These owls prefer a similar diet to the Barred owls in addition to hares and rabbits. They are the only animals that regularly eat skunks. Their range includes South and Central America and most of North America. Great horned owls are usually between 17-24 inches with a wing span from 3.5 to 5 feet. Sarah is a beautiful addition to our Raptors at the ABEF. Sarah was named after Sarah Palin as both are from Wasilla and Sarah Palin signed the paper work allowing the ABEF to house non-releasable birds of prey.

### **"WARRIOR" OUR RED TAIL HAWK**

Warrior came to us from the Southeastern Raptor Center of Auburn University. Warrior is blind in one eye from a head injury and cannot be released back into the wild; but he makes a wonderful addition as one of our Educational birds! This is probably the most common hawk in North America. If you've got sharp eyes you'll see several individuals on almost any long car ride, anywhere. Red-tailed Hawks soar above open fields, slowly turning circles on their broad, rounded wings. Other times you'll see them atop telephone poles, eyes fixed on the ground to catch the movements of a vole or a rabbit, or simply waiting out cold weather before climbing a thermal updraft into the sky.



### **"SITKA: OUR 2ND RED TAIL HAWK**

Sitka is our newest Raptor. A Harlan Phase Red Tail Hawk. Sitka came to us with one wing shorter than the other as a result from a break in his wing. Sitka came to us from the Alaska Raptor Center in Sitka, Alaska. The "Harlan's Hawk" breeds in Alaska and northwestern Canada, and winters on the southern Great Plains. This very dark form of the Red-tailed Hawk has a marbled white, brown, and gray tail instead of a red one. It's so distinctive that it was once considered a separate species, until ornithologists discovered many individuals that were intermediate between Harlan's and more typical Red-tailed Hawks.



## **“DYLAN” OUR EASTERN SCREECH OWL**

Dylan is our Eastern Screech owl who came to us from the Southeastern Raptor Center of Auburn University. Dylan is blind in one eye from an injury and cannot be released. He is smaller than a Dollar Bill, but sure is full of personality! Dylan will be one of our Educational birds. The Eastern Screech-Owl is found in nearly every habitat throughout the eastern United States and southern Canada. It is common in urban as well as rural areas and readily nests in nest boxes. Dylan is now being presented by our Junior Bird Handlers and seems to be quite comfortable with them!

## **“ASPEN” OUR GREAT GREY OWL**

**Aspen** came to the ABEF from the Alaska WildBird Rehab center in Wasilla. She was found with a fractured left wing. The bone did not heal correctly so her wing droops. She has some flight ability, but not well enough to survive in the wild. Aspen is a very vocal bird. She hoots a low “whoo-ooo-ooo” call at almost every one who walks in the door. She is a member of the tallest owl species in North America reaching almost 3 feet in height! Even though she is tall she does not weight much only weighing about 3 pounds. Aspen is a very personable bird and is very easy to work with but only when she wants to be. We had a naming contest for the local school children to pick out an official name for her. We asked the children to choose a name and explain why they chose that name. Natalie, a 5th grade student at the Haines elementary school in Haines, AK chose the name Aspen. She chose the name Aspen as she felt it was a beautiful name for a beautiful owl.

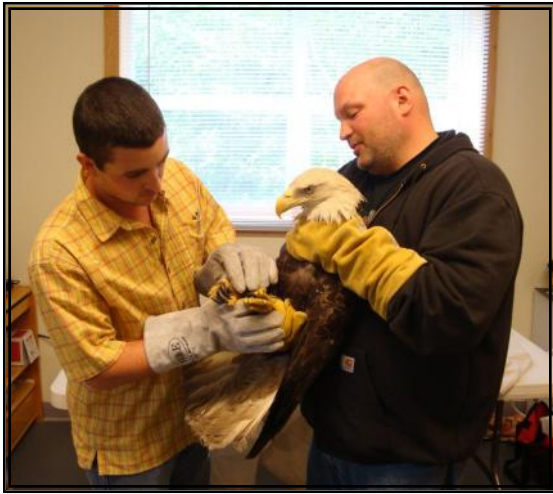
## **“DR. SCOTT” KNOWN AS SCOTTY OUR BALD EAGLE**

**Dr. Scott**, or Scotty for short, came from the Bird Treatment and Learning Center in Anchorage. We have had Scotty for 8 months. He came in with an injury to the left wing that resulted in a non-union of the left elbow. This has rendered him unable to fly well enough to survive in the wild. Scotty was named in honor of Dr. James “Jim” Scott. Dr. James Scott founded Bird TLC and Scotty is the first bird we have received from them. The national emblem of the United States, the Bald Eagle was threatened with extinction in the lower 48 states because of DDT (a type of pesticide) poisoning. Protection under the Endangered Species Act, together with reintroduction programs, brought populations up, and the species was reclassified as Threatened in 1995. By 1999 some were suggesting that Bald Eagles could be removed from the endangered species list, and they were delisted in June 2007—a true conservation success story. Scotty is an 11 pound male with a 7 foot wing span. He is a very quick learner. Scotty is in training and we hope to have him doing programs this summer.

**“JUVENILE FEMALE BALD EAGLE”** Our latest addition to our Raptors is a female Juvenile Bald Eagle who arrived July 5th from the Alaska Raptor Center in Sitka. She suffered from electrocution on the tip of her wing which had to be amputated at the “Wrist” This injury has affected her ability to fly and she has now joined us as an education bird. We will be having a contest to name her in the next few months when she completes her training and can be seen by the public. She is approximately 2 years old and will not have her full white head and white tail till she reaches 5 years old. We will be posting photos of her as she changes from a juvenile to an adult! Immature's are variably patterned with dark brown and white; It takes five years to acquire full adult plumage. The white not restricted to well defined areas, but appearing scattered throughout the body, usually with brown mottling in some areas. White in wings primarily in linings and not flight feathers. The bill and cere are blackish gray. Eyes dark brown. Feet and lower legs yellow.

**“JUVENILE RAVEN”** Our 1st Raven has arrived. We were fortunate to receive him from the Juneau Raptor Center. He was found in a school yard by some children and was unable to fly. After a few weeks in his new mew, it became apparent that he could not fully use his right wing; bird specialist Dr. Ford confirmed that he lacked full range of motion in that wing and recommended against attempting surgery. We were looking for a raven and are pleased with the arrival of this raven. We have him in training to sit on our wrist and come inside the building to greet our guest. We will be asking the students in Klukwan to help us pick a Tlinket name for him. Ravens are among the smartest of all birds, gaining a reputation for solving ever more complicated problems invented by ever more creative scientists. So far his favorite food seems to be Egg Yolks!





## WILD BIRD RESCUE BY ABEF

The American Bald Eagle Foundation staff has been quite busy this year. We have been receiving calls from the local residents and have rescued many birds so far this year. We have taken in everything from pine siskin babies to eagles. Matt Wilson an intern and Ed Podgorski our Raptor Handler examining a injured eagle, while our interns examine the talons of a Owl. We evaluate the birds and then put them in a kennel and send them to the Juneau Raptor Center. We do not have the ability to provide any medical care for these birds but do what we can to help them. At times they just need some R&R and some food. We provide them with that for a few days and set them free if no medical attention is needed. If we feel they need Medical attention we take them to Wings of Alaska and send them on their way. The ABEF is so grateful to Wings for flying these injured birds to Juneau at no cost to us. In Addition we are so grateful to the Juneau Raptor Center for the care and assistance they have given the ABEF.

## JILKAAT KWAAN CULTURAL TOURS

*Join us an authentic native Alaskan Experience on the banks of the Chilkat River with our Live Bird demonstration at the “ Traditional Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Center”* They share their traditional food, dances, and regalia. If you are travelling to Klukwan from Skagway, you'll board the fast ferry and journey to Haines along one of the most scenic waterways in the world. From Haines, you will travel the National Scenic Byway 22 miles through the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, enjoying all the natural surroundings on the tour bus. Wildlife sightings are possible along the highway, as well as views of majestic mountains along the river. Experience the Tlingit Language that has been revived in their schools and community: Stories are handed down through generations of descendents and friends. Ancestors traded with Canada's First Nations to enhance their life style and pass on pieces of their culture. On your tour, you will also visit a recently built replica of a Long House to learn about its traditional uses. You will also learn about our Chilkat Blanket which is the signature of our people here in the Chilkat Indian Village. We hope this memorable experience will enhance your knowledge of the people, the culture and their way of life. After the tour, join us for a delectable salmon meal prepared in the Hospitality House followed by a live Bird Presentation of our birds from the American Bald Eagle Foundation.

1-800-443-5190 or 1-907-766-4000

More info at <http://visitklukwan.com/home>



## “OUR NEW ADDITION COMPLETE!”

A world of thanks to our dedicated Construction Crews. Rain or shine they were here everyday working to get the building completed. The addition now houses our Gift shop, Procedures room for exams on our birds, a kitchen to prepare their meals, a meeting room and Master Eagle Mew, awaiting 3 Eagles to take up residence in our Mew. We now have 10 outdoor mews to house our resident birds. To complete our center we received a wonderful donation from Southeast Road builders in Haines and the Army Corp of engineers in the form of a paved parking lot!! We have just received funding from the State of Alaska to build our flight enclosure to exercise our birds and host interns and externships for college students to study our birds.



American Bald Eagle Foundation is proud to be part of Blue Star Museums, a program offering free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2011. Blue Star Museums is a partnership among Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more than 1,300 museums across America. Blue Star Families is a national, nonpartisan, non-profit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families.



## AMERICAN BALD EAGLE FOUNDATION



Join us on facebook ! We now have a facebook page and keep up to date on all our happenings at the American Bald Eagle Foundation

Join us for the 17th Annual Alaska Bald Eagle Festival in Haines, Alaska!

**November 9-13, 2011 <http://baldeagles.org/festival>**

Celebrating the largest gathering of Bald Eagles in the World! The American Bald Eagle Foundation and the people of Haines welcome you to the 2011 Alaska Bald Eagle Festival! Festival activities are held at the American Bald Eagle Foundation , conveniently located at the corner of Second Avenue and the Haines Highway. Here you will attend Photography Workshops, Scrapbooking Alaska Workshops , Wildlife Presentations, meet for tours, classes and live raptor presentations. Daily busses and/or vans will carry you safely to the Alaska Bald Eagle Preserve to witness the annual "Gathering of the Eagles. " At this time of year, over 3,000 eagles can be found in the Preserve feeding on a late run of salmon. The Festival includes evening entertainment to round out your Festival experience. For more information

:<http://baldeagles.org/catalog/9> —————**For Festival Registration**

<http://baldeagles.org/photographer> —————**For Photography Workshops**

[http://baldeagles.org/sites/default/files/Scrapbooking%20Class\\_0.pdf%20-3-2-10123](http://baldeagles.org/sites/default/files/Scrapbooking%20Class_0.pdf%20-3-2-10123)

**For Scrapbooking workshops**



**AMERICAN BALD EAGLE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

The American Bald Eagle Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax exempt Foundation dedicated to the conservation and protection of the bald eagle and its habitat throughout North America. The Foundation relies on memberships, gift shop sales and generous donations from wonderful people like you to continue this important work. Please support the American Bald Eagle Foundation by becoming a member. If you do not wish to become a member, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. You may download a membership application from our website or send in this copy. All members receive free newsletters, free admission to our museum and a color eagle photograph each year. Silver, Gold and Lifetime members receive additional discounts. Please visit our website for more information and consider becoming a member today. [www.baldeagles.org](http://www.baldeagles.org)

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

For memberships outside the United States, please add \$10 to the membership fees below.

**INDIVIDUAL - \$ 35      SILVER - \$ 150      LIFETIME MEMBER - \$ 1,000      FAMILY - \$ 50      GOLD - \$ 250**

• **DONATION ONLY \$ \_\_\_\_\_** We are a 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Foundation -- your donation is tax-deductible.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:** \_\_\_\_\_

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