## WILDWOODS 501(c)(3)

The Northland's regional wildlife rehabilitation facility

### Dear Wildwoods Friends and Family,

Summer is ending, and that means that our busiest time of the year is coming to a close as babies are grown, nestlings have fledged and gone, and mating season has passed for the majority of mammals and birds. We've had an exciting time this summer, but guess that we are not alone in welcoming a cooler fall!

So far in 2023, we have worked with 662 animals representing 100 species, and have provided support to 1,727 people by taking animals they have found into care, advising them on animals they worry are in distress, and offering appropriate referrals when needed. We've also been very pleased to share our educational programs with local schools and Girl Scout Troops, and have a table at craft fairs, Earth Day events, and even a Science Night!

As we enter migration season, we can expect an uptick in adult raptors and migratory birds. Adult animals, especially raptors, keep us busy over the winter along with corvids, adult mammals, and others. Additionally, we will be overwintering some species including frogs, toads, snakes, turtles, and injured mammals who will need to wait until spring for release.

Thank you for everything you did to make this a successful year for the animals in our care, and for helping us to provide an oasis for these animals in need. We can only do what we do because of your commitment to this work.

Enjoy reading about some of the animals we have seen this year, and consider joining us at our very special fundraising concert featuring Charlie Parr! See inside for details.

Happy fall!

Jessica LaBumbard Executive Director



#### ANIMAL STORIES



#### Osprey in the Boat!

You can never say that you have seen everything as a rehabilitator, because each year, we get a new story that tops all others! Linda was at a lake in Two Harbors when she saw something that not many people see. Two eagles attacked a first-year osprey - likely they were trying to get at the osprey's own catch. The osprey was at an age where it was still learning to forage and hunt, and its parents were still around. After the eagle attack, the osprey fell into the water.

Linda jumped into a nearby boat and rowed out to the osprey. The osprey reached for the oar, jumped on, and hitched a ride to shore. Have you ever tried to row with one arm, while the other holds a paddle still so an osprey can perch? Well, Linda has!

Once Linda arrived on shore, she called Wildwoods to tell us about the injured bird. A friend of hers was able to get in touch with the DNR and they assisted in containing the osprey. One of our stalwart volunteers then picked up the osprey and brought it back to Wildwoods for care.

We treated the osprey for puncture wounds and set it up for the night. The osprey was transferred to The Raptor Center the following day where a full recovery is expected!

#### All Tied Up

Most of the animals that come to Wildwoods are injured or orphaned due to a negative interaction with a human. That interaction doesn't have to be direct, but can be indirect as was the case for this juvenile ringbilled gull.

Two kayakers found the gull struggling in Lake Superior and herded it toward shore where a passing biker grabbed the bird and secured a ride to Wildwoods. The gull was bound by fishing line and was unable to move its wings. Once Wildwoods staff cut the line and unwrapped her, they noted that the fishhook was caught under the first layer of skin under the beak. They were able to safely remove the lure, and the bird was free! After some medical attention, she was deemed healthy and ready to be released back into the lake.

Once released, the ring-billed gull immediately made its way to some rocks and was soon joined by the parents. Happily, all three swam away together.

This painted turtle suffered a similar fate when it too was snagged by a fishhook. The hook was safely removed, and the turtle was successfully treated for infection.

These two stories remind us that everything we do has an impact on the animals around us. Cleaning up and securing our trash, driving carefully and watching for animals on the road, making sure we tend our trees and gardens in a way that will not destroy homes and nests resulting in orphaned animals, and understanding that we share space with wildlife goes a long way to ensuring better lives for all of us.









Wildwoods 4009 W. Arrowhead Rd Duluth, MN 55811



Donate online at www.wildwoodsrehab.org/donate or use the enclosed envelope.



providing emergency stabilization and transfer of injured and sick wildlife to other rehabilitation centers in the state.

Open 365 days a year 9 am - 6 pm (By scheduled drop off only) 4009 W. Arrowhead Rd Duluth, MN 55811 218-491-3604 www.wildwoodsrehab.org

# Thank you to our 2023 Donors!

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