



Wingspan

A publication of The National Eagle Center

May 2006

From the Director of Operations

There has been considerable change and progress at the National Eagle Center since the last issue of the newsletter was published. In March we had a very successful Soar with the Eagles weekend. We have worked hard on the pre campaign phase of the capital campaign. Perhaps the most significant change is that we have reorganized the structure of EagleWatch Inc.

During the pre campaign assessment for the new building we examined our organization and discussed what the needs would be in the new building. The Board of Directors and fund raising committees recognized that the new center would require more people to carry out the projects, programs and exhibits in the larger facility. In order to meet the needs, it was decided to reorganize into a corporation with two Boards of Directors.

One Board is the Governing Board of Directors. This Board is responsible for financial matters, personnel issues, the facility and gift store. The other Board is the Educational Board of Directors. This Board is responsible for exhibit development, programming and special events.

This new organization model for EagleWatch Inc. will allow each Board to focus on more specific issues. It will also allow us to recruit board members with the specific skills needed to carry out the respective tasks. The end result will be the ability to manage the new facility and accomplish much more over the coming years.

The capital campaign is progressing. Jerry Arens and Don Jacoby have assembled a terrific campaign cabinet. The cabinet is meeting weekly and working on identifying lead donors, exploring grant opportunities, and getting organized. The campaign will enter the final public phase early this summer.

It is a pleasure to listen to Jerry and Don discuss the project. They have such a passion for the National Eagle Center that comes out whenever they talk about it. Their enthusiasm is quite contagious.

Director of Operations continued on Page 2

From the Director of Programming

As the capital campaign for construction of the National Eagle Center building continues closer to its goals, the design, funding and implementation of the programming and exhibits has been another goal of the EagleWatch staff and newly formed Education Board. New board members to assist the development of exhibits, and education programming will be identified to join the core team of individuals that have kept moving the National Eagle Center project forward. The four themes: The Eagle, The River, The Flyway and Human Connection, used in education at the National Eagle Center, are central to the exhibits development. The Human Connection theme is to be one of the primary exhibits at the new center and will be the focus of special consideration in exhibit development during the next few months.

The connection to humans can be profound when observing cultural aspects of the eagle's history in various communities across the US. For instance, even plants that people cultivate are connected to the eagle. Paul Red Elk, conservator with Plant Ethnology Collections at the Science Museum of Minnesota, is assisting the National Eagle Center with a future exhibits project for the center that connects the eagle with corn grown by the Navajo tribe.

"Eagle Corn" is the native corn that is traditionally grown by the Navajo people but also has quite an interesting history. According to the Navajo elder that is working with Paul on this project, the corn was originally grown by another tribe that lost the tradition and then the eagle corn was given to the Navajo to continue growing. Eagle Corn is unique in that each of the whitish yellow kernels has the mark of the "Eagle" a blue silhouette of a soaring eagle. The Navajo elder advised Paul that it is only eaten on special occasions.

Peggy Backup, a local vineyard cultivator and native plant enthusiast, had eagle corn given to her and knowing that it was special, donated her corn to the National Eagle Center before she moved to a new residence in California.

Director of Programming continued on Page 3

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***EagleWatch Inc.
Boards of Directors***

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National Eagle Center Staff

James C. Lundgren
Director of Finance and Operations

MaryBeth Garrigan
Director of Programming and Public Relations

Bill Cournoyer
Gift Shop Coordinator

Norma Bartlett
National Eagle Center Assistant

The National Eagle Center is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Live non-releasable eagles conduct in house and out reach programming to educate young and old alike about the lives and habits of this important American symbol.

Membership in EagleWatch Inc. is open to everyone. To join the organization, please fill out the membership form and submit it with the appropriate membership fee. For your convenience there is a membership form included as part of this newsletter.

Photo Credit: The eagle in flight photo on the cover was taken by Carol Knabe.

Visit us at:
National Eagle Center
152 Main Street
Wabasha MN 55981
nationaleaglecenter.org

EagleWatch Mission:

To foster environmental stewardship and community sustainability thought education about bald eagles and the Mississippi environment.

Employer Gift Matching Programs

For those of you who work for larger companies, please inquire about any employee gift matching programs. We receive some donations from people at American Express and IBM that are then matched by their employers. This is a good way to increase the value of a donation through matching funds and provide more resources to the National Eagle Center. Some employers include retirees in the gift matching programs as well.

What most of these programs require is that any donation be made with a form sent to the employer indicating the donation. The National Eagle Center then receives a check from the company that ranges from 50 percent to 3 times the employee's donation.

We will happily work with your company to provide whatever paperwork needs to be prepared.

Dir. of Operations (Continued from Page 1)

The capital campaign is inspiring many people towards this cause and we look forward to meeting our goals and having the building open in 2007.

A kick off event is being planned for June 20th. This is the day that Governor Pawlenty declared Bald Eagle Day in 2004. There will be entertainment, food and many surprises and announcements. Check our web page for details in the coming weeks.

We hope to see you there.

James C. Lundgren
Director of Finance and Operations

Upcoming Programs

Saturday Evening June 24th at Whitewater State Park
MaryBeth and Angel will do a program at the outdoor amphitheater at the visitor's center

Also look for the National Eagle Center programs during summer events in communities along the Mississippi River:

Winona MN Steamboat Days
Wabasha MN Riverboat Days
Kellogg MN, Watermelon Festival
Pepin WI, Laura Ingalls Wilder Days

Dir. of Programming (Continued from Page 1)

Peggy didn't have any information to go with the corn so the corn was kept in a display case at the center for a couple years before I met Paul during a CBSO workshop we partner on with the Science Museum. Paul is working on a "Three Sisters Garden Project" that is partially funded by the National Park Service that involves at risk youth in growing native crops where corn, squash, and beans are traditionally grown side by side in a three sisters garden.



Close up of eagle corn and eagle beans

Paul found that there is a sister "Eagle Bean" that has a white top and brown body like the color of a bald eagle and he is now in search of the "Eagle Squash". Paul is growing some of the eagle center corn to work on a project proto type at the museum in hopes to bring it to a garden exhibit at the National Eagle Center grown with by local kids as a school project. We are also hoping to feature traditional plants that Paul has found to be associated with the eagle in Native culture. Thanks to Paul, the Eagle Corn is currently about a foot high and doing well.

This is just one of the fascinating stories and traditions that connect eagles with humans discovered while developing exhibits and on going programs at the center

MaryBeth Garrigan
Director of Programming and Public Relations

Photo Contest

Our first photo contest was a success. We are already planning this to be an annual contest with some of the photos being used in a calendar for the following year. The 2007 calendar will be ready this summer. Anyone interested in taking photos for next year's contest, please check out the web page for details.

Thank you very much to the many photographers that submitted 96 photos for the contest.

Soar With the Eagles Weekend

Thank you to the following people and businesses that sponsored events, or made a donation to the silent auction:

| Sponsors | |
|---|--|
| Ameriprise Edward Jones Flicek Insurance | Jewson Realty Passe Electric Schurhammer Jewelry Xcel Energy |
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| Aamot, Jim Abbott Furniture Arens, Jerry & Mary Bateman, Robert Ben Franklin Blossom Shop Book Cliffs Boul's Boarding House Coffee Mill Golf Course Conoly, Mark Czosnek, Lawrence Dairy Queen Eagle Optics Earth Circles First State Bank Flour Mill Bakery Fresh Wok Gates, Shirley HBC Hill's Hardware Interstate Building | Jans, Jr. John Knabe Jerry & Carol Kwik Trip Lineweaver, Jon Loon Lake Decoy McCoy, Bob Miller, Marian Nosh Restaurant Paul Flicek Insurance Redig, Ramona R L Benson Cabinetry Rutledge, Hope Salwey, Kenny Scheel's Super Valu Scott, Carol St. Elizabeth Wabasha Pharmacy Wabasha Transfer Wild Wings Winds Whisper West |

Meet a Board Member: Rick Vaplon

Rick Vaplon is one of the new members of the Governing Board of Directors. He lives south of Kellogg with his wife Linda and three daughters Brittany, Carly and Lexi.

Rick was born and raised in Wabasha. After graduation from Wabasha-Kellogg High School, he went on to receive a Bachelors Degree in Accounting from Winona State University. Following graduation he worked for the accounting firm of BACH, Ltd based out of Austin Minnesota. There he was involved mainly in audits of governmental institutions such as cities and school districts.

New Board Member Continued page 4



Bill and Harriet at the National Eagle Center

Remembering William "Bill" Sylvanus

"It takes volunteers" said Bill Sylvanus, one of the longest serving volunteers for the National Eagle Center "That is the story of America. We would never have got our Constitution with out volunteers. Anything in worthwhile in America takes volunteers." Bill would explain to visitors when they asked about his work with the eagles.

Since the late 1980's Bill volunteered on the eagle observation deck after Mary Rivers of Wabasha noticed that many people came to the town to see eagles and organized EagleWatch to help educate and assist with eagle information. Bill Sylvanus was a regular at the National Eagle Center putting in over 2000 volunteer hours in some years until January of 2006 when he became ill. Bill passed away on February 28th from cancer, and all of the staff, board and volunteers of EagleWatch will miss his presence at the National Eagle Center and have established a memorial in his name.

Bill told us he became fascinated with the eagles when he saw one close up at the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, and despite over 15 years of seeing eagles close up or far away Bill said he never tired of seeing them. Whether standing out in the frigid winter on the deck pointing out eagles to CBS correspondent Harry Smith or sipping hot coffee in the center telling eagle stories to tourists, Bill was dedicated to the eagles.

In 2001 Bill accompanied our eagle Harriet to a program for students at his old grade school in West Des Moines IA where kids were amazed to learn that Bill a former student in 1940's was back bringing eagles to their school.

His obituary stated; William "Bill" Dean Sylvanus passed on February 28, 2006 in Mankato, MN. Bill was born on 12-9-1934 to William and Fern (Rector) Sylvanus in Minburn, IA. He attended and graduated from Decorah High school. He joined the Air Force

RegAF 10 Oct 1957. He spent time over seas in Korea and Japan. His last duty assignment and major command: 33rd Communications Squadron. Specialty number and title 29150 Comm. Cen. Spec1. Decorations: Good Conduct Medal and Air force Longevity Service Award. Bill built his career as a Radio Announcer in various locations. He recently worked at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, MN

Bill's multifaceted life and sense of humor made people feel at home with him at the observation deck while they scanned the skies for eagles. "We're here for the birds, the American Symbol" he said for an article written about him in a local Rochester paper in 2003. Our hearts soar thinking of all the memories we had with Bill, as we watched the eagles soar along the Mississippi River during their spring migration home.

This editorial was originally published in the Wabasha County Herald prepared by MaryBeth Garrigan

Memorial Funds

A specific fund has been established in memory of Bill Sylvanus. When the new building opens the fund will be used to create a memorial to Bill. Most likely this will be a bench overlooking the river. This would combine Bill's passion for eagles and the Mississippi River. Contributions to the fund will be dedicated to the memorial.

If anyone else is interested in learning more about specific memorials opportunities involved with the new building, please contact me at the National Eagle Center.

James Lundgren

New Board Member: continued from page 3

The family moved back to the area when Rick accepted a position with First State Bank of Wabasha. Linda accepted a teaching position with W-K school district.

Rick is currently the Senior Vice President and a member of the Board of Directors for First State Bank of Wabasha. Within the community he has been involved with the Wabasha Jaycees, Wabasha Chamber of Commerce, Kellogg Lions Club and Wabasha Rotary. He really enjoys the recreational opportunities this area has to offer, namely hunting, fishing, hiking, boating and cross country skiing.

Welcome to EagleWatch Rick!



National Eagle Center / EagleWatch Membership Form

5.06

An Individual Membership receives:

- Regular newsletter to keep informed on National Eagle Center activities and building progress as well as the plight of the bald eagle.
- 10% off most items purchased in the National Eagle Center Gift Store.
- Eagle support kit. (new members only)
- Invitations to special events.
- Knowledge that your support will aid the National Eagle Center in fulfilling its mission.

A Household Membership receives the member benefits for entire household as well as:

- EagleWatch fanny pack (new members only)

A Feather of Flight Membership receives all of the above as well as:

- A boxed Honor Feather.

A Primary Feather Membership receives all of the above as well as:

- Your name on a brass-plated wooden feather mounted to the wall at the National Eagle Center.

New Membership

- Individual Membership \$35
- Feather of Flight Membership \$100

Renewal Membership

- Household Membership \$50
- Primary Feather Membership \$1,000

Payment Method

- Cash Check
- Credit (AM Express, Discover, MasterCard, Visa)

Name

Address

City, State Zip

e-mail address

Credit card number expires

Telephone #

Signature

Please return form to Membership: National Eagle Center: POB 242: Wabasha MN 55981

Has your membership lapsed?

Please take a look at the label on the front of the newsletter. The date your membership expires is printed on the label. If your membership has expired, or is about to expire, we mark the date to remind you. Please fill out the membership form included in the newsletter and return it to the National Eagle Center with your membership investment.

You can also help us grow by passing this newsletter on to your family and friends when you are done with it. You can also contact the office and we will send out a complimentary newsletter and membership request to interested parties.

Memberships are a very important part of the financial stability of the National Eagle Center. Please help keep us flying for years to come.

Wings of Eagles Dining Club

The Historic Anderson House here in Wabasha is starting a dining club to benefit the National Eagle Center. For a small annual fee, members receive a membership card. Every time you use the card, 5% of the purchase will be donated to the National Eagle Center.

The membership benefits include

- 1 free Seafood Buffet (value \$13.95)
- 1 free Wine Dinner, (value \$35.00)
- 1 free dessert every tenth visit
- Priority seating when making reservations
- Newsletter

The annual fee is \$30.00 with \$10.00 coming to directly to the center. For details or to sign up, speak with Teresa at the Historic Anderson House at 651.565.2500. Please support the businesses that support the National Eagle Center!

To all our donors, members and volunteers, we would like to THANK YOU very much for all you do to make the National Eagle Center a success!

The National Eagle Center is a non-profit organization that is dependant upon the generosity of people, foundations, governments, and businesses. The Boards of Directors and staff would like to thank the following people and businesses that have contributed time, finances, or in-kind items to our organization since the last newsletter. We cannot succeed with out the efforts of many people.

| New and Renewed Members | |
|---|---|
| <p>The following people and businesses have joined or renewed their membership in EagleWatch since the last newsletter. Please encourage others to join us!</p> | |
| <p>Arbisi, Mark & Renee Blystone, Donald & Alice Clegg, Elmer & Bunny Cole, Steve & Vicki Connell, Marilyn Crowley, Tom Czosnek, Lawrence Daddario, Pat & Jean Doffing Family Dufour, Richard Eagle, Debra Falkum, Nancy & Craig Frack, Roy & Marcia Giampaolo, Frank Gieseke, Michael & Gail Grevious, Kaye Hager, Theresa Harder, Steve & Therese Hendrickson, Colleen Hennes, Gary Horner, Leroy & Mary Jane Hougardy, Derron & Meredith Howard, Katherine & Joseph Irish, Bob & Millie Jacoby, Don & Mary Janis, Allen & Phyllis Kochensparger, Paul Kuhlman, Frank Loftus, Carol</p> | <p>Loon Lake Decoy Co Mahle, Donald Maka Duta McCoy, Jeri & Robert McFadden, Joseph Miller, Dianne Miller, Dorothy Miller, Duane Potyondy, Steve & Marion Remy, Jerry & Judy Rensink, Shirley Reynolds, Carol Schaffner, Susan Schintz, Tom & Barb Schjolberg, Dianne Schlosser, Cindy Schneider, Blanche Schneider, Phyllis Seehusen, David Skoog, Dennis & Margaret Smith, Dennis & Barbara Swerman, Rodney Theismann, Darlene Towler, Roger & Sue VonEhwegen, Gerald Wedemeyer, Irene & David Wodele, David & Jeani Wogan, Roger & Sandy Young, LaVonne Zabel, Jordan</p> |

| EagleWatch Volunteers | |
|---|--|
| <p>Abbott, Jim Addicks, Duke Allaire, Bill Arens, Jerry Balow, Adam Bartlett, Norma Biever, Jackie Burkett, John Busch, Marne Christoffer, Jim Cooper, Al Cournoyer, Bill Crowley, Tom Daddario, Pat Eggenberger, Randy Falkum, Craig Fjerstad, Anne Flicek, Mary Flint, Bill Foley, Kevin Fusco, Paul Goetl, Bridget Grovedahl, Yvonne Harris, Chris Harris, Sue Heim, Mike Hill, Patty Holtan, Al Jacoby, Don Janzen, Paul Kasper, Jan Kasper, Brent Keim, Doug Klas, Bob Klas, Pete Klees, Carolyn Knabe, Carol Knabe, Jerry Kohner, Bob Krings, Adam Krings, Markus</p> | <p>Kuhlman Frank Laack, Ron Lineweaver, Jon Marx, Leanne Marx, Morgan McGill, Brooke Meurer, Chad Meurer, Skip Mundy, Sue Niemantsverdriet, Jim Olson, John Oschner, John Patterson-Lundgren, Molly Perry, Mike Reinhart, John Rivers, John Rivers, Mary Roemer, Jim Schlosser, Cindy Schmidt, Diana Schnabel, Joan Schneider, Dave Schneider, Dennis Schjolberg, Dianne Schumacher, Geoffery Schumacher, Georgette Schumacher, Mike Schumacher, Rebecca Scott, Carol Smith, Mike Smith, Sarah Snitgen, Bob Snitgen, Liz Stokes, Jim Stordahl, Tom Stroot, Gene Vaplon, Rick Walters, Monica Wilson, Marty Wodele, Dave Zabel, Larry</p> |

2006 brochure sponsor Papa Tronnio's is donating 10% of purchases made with coupons available at the National Eagle Center. Please pick one up at your next visit.

Eagle Handlers *Committee Member*
Special event aide *Program Assistant*
NEC Greeters *Newsletter Publishing*

Call us today to learn more!

| In-kind donors | |
|--|--|
| <p>Benson, Ron Construction Services</p> <p>By Golly Creek Photography</p> <p>Cassidy, Maggie Stamps</p> <p>Cournoyer, Bill Postage</p> <p>Czosnek, Lawrence Digital Camera Tool box and tools Pencil Sharpener Road Flares</p> <p>Datalink Web Site hosting</p> <p>Foley, Kevin Computer printer and scanner</p> | <p>Hager, Theresa Digital Camera Stamps</p> <p>Irish, Bob & Millie Assorted Office Supplies Tool kit Paper cutter Laminator</p> <p>Johnson, Cheryl Paper Towels</p> <p>McCoy, Bob Consulting services</p> <p>Plum Creek Associates Web Site development</p> <p>Snitgen, Bob & Liz Fuel Travel expenses</p> |

| Financial Donors | |
|---|--|
| <p>Up to \$49 Fagen, Ruth Fogarty, Joy Frack, Marcia Irish, Bob & Millie Isakson, Steven Malm, Cindy Mundy, John & Sue Piper, Nancy Sparish, Barbara Stanley, Bryan Stromley, Gary Ward, Emmerson Wever, Mary</p> <p>\$50-99 Eddy, James Hassinger, Laurie Howard, Katherine Neubauer, Raymond Seehusen, David Wallace, W. D.</p> <p>Over \$100 Ameriprise Financial Anderson, Norma Connell, Marilyn Czosnek, Lawrence Hougardy, Derron & Meredith Rohrer, Curt Wedemeyer, Irene & David Zumbro Area Eagles</p> <p>Endowment Fund Wedemeyer, Irene & David</p> | <p>Building Fund Anderson, Tim & Jenny Arndt, Tammy Baker, Betty Mae Cegelske, Karen Davis, Charles Fortuna, Carol A. Foster, Barb & Rod Grover, Kathy Hope, Christine Hough, Craig Hubert, Charlotte Ingalls, Gary & Anne Jacobson, Audrey Lewis, Darrilyn Losinski, Dan & Donna McFadden, Joe Niemeyer, Phil Olmstead, Dave & Pat Olson, Becky Parklyn, John Pember, Jane Pieper, Dennis & Linda Ramaker, Carolyn Rochester Exchange Romero Family Snodgrass, Emilee & Andrew TePoel, Harvey Waltman, Kim White, Mark & Lisa Winick, Andrea Woodward, Deborah</p> |

| Memorial Donations | |
|---|--|
| <p>In Memory: Randy Stroot Wabasha Class of 1974</p> | <p>In Memory: Izzo & Rostov Cooper, Al & Sonia* * Cobble Purchase</p> |

NEC Eagle Updates

Harriet, Angel, and Columbia continue to have a very busy schedule traveling to over 150 programs across the 5 state region last season in addition to doing their regular feeding show routine at 1:00pm daily at the center. Harriet and Columbia assisted in USFWS refuge staff during training in eagle capture and restraint class and also conducted programs sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at the Midwest Sports Expo last March educating anglers about using non-lead fishing tackle.

The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance along with Xcel Energy has sponsored the "Get the Lead Out" exhibit at the National Eagle Center which was installed for the Soar with the Eagles Weekend. Many types of non-lead sinkers such tin split shot, and assorted Water Gremlin Green tackle products are for sale with proceeds going to help the National Eagle Center. All "Bio-Bait" and tackle products sold at the center are safe for use by children and are not toxic if swallowed by eagles!

No major health problems or issues this year with any of our birds other than their maintenance checkups at the University of Minnesota. All the eagles at the National Eagle Center have been updated with current West Nile Virus vaccines given to them at the Raptor Center.

In other bird health issues, the Avian Bird Flu (H5N1) cases in raptors have been few. According to the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, in 2005 isolated incidents in Saudi Arabia involving saker falcons, peregrine falcons and gyr falcons and in two smuggled mountain hawk eagle species from Southeast Asia, were reported in Europe. Even though these incidents are few, it does put us on alert that raptors can become infected and die of H5N1.

For more information visit:

- www.who.dk/ Click on Influenza and Avian Influenza in the left hand column
- www.cdc.gov/ Click box marked Avian Influenza
- www.cvm.umn.edu/ai/ University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

National Eagle Center
POB 242
Wabasha MN 55981

Pre-sorted
Standard
US postage paid
Wabasha MN
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Wish List

The following items are currently needed at the National Eagle Center. Please contact the office if you have any of these items available.

- Disposable rubber gloves
- Fresh fish for feeding eagles
- Stamps for mailing letters
- Copier paper
- Paper Towels (both tri fold and roll)
- Wet/Dry Shop Vacuum

A very special Thank You goes out to those who donated many items from our wish list in the last newsletter. We appreciate your support.

Visit the National Eagle Center Gift Store

Partial list of items available in our Gift Store

- Binoculars
- Educational Books
- Cards
- Children's books
- Clothing
- Eagle Photographs
- Native Jewelry
- Posters
- Toys
- Much more!

Not sure what to buy as gifts? No problem. The National Eagle Center offers gift certificates. They are available for any dollar amount. Please contact us and we will send them out to you.

You can also see some of our items online at nationaleaglecenter.org. Click on the Gift Store tab.

Interns at the National Eagle Center

Intern Marcus Krings who worked at the center during his internship with USFWS this last winter, returned to NEC to complete his college practicum for Winona State University during April and brought along his twin brother Adam. Adam Krings is also a student at Winona State finishing up his senior year and both Marcus and Adam have been training with eagles and conducting education programs with the public on and off site for the for their practicum requirements.