



# Annual Report

National Eagle Center

2014

## Celebrating our silver anniversary and looking to a bright future



Dr. James Reidy, Board Chair and Rolf Thompson, Executive Director

2014 has been a landmark year for the National Eagle Center. We celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> year as an organization. Originally founded in 1989 as Eaglewatch (still our corporate name), we have grown from a group of committed volunteers helping visitors view eagles from

an outdoor observation deck, to the world-class interpretive center you know today. This anniversary and the publication of *A Vision Takes Flight: A History of the National Eagle Center 1989-2014* were opportunities to look back and see how far we've come, but also to consider how we will continue to soar.

This year we launched our first new permanent exhibit since our grand opening in 2007. ***Masters of the Sky: Raptors, Flight and Migration*** broadens our educational reach and helps visitors understand the diversity of raptors that share this Upper Mississippi River habitat.

2014 also marked the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Wintering Golden Eagle Survey. This groundbreaking project has literally changed the range maps for golden eagles in the Midwest, by documenting a regular wintering presence here in southeast Minnesota and the surrounding blufflands. We are excited to continue to expand the world's knowledge of this majestic species through continued surveys, field observations and tracking of individual birds with satellite transmitters.

As we look to the future we can see that there is more to do. In keeping with our strategic priorities to extend our educational reach, we are developing curriculum based lesson

plans for teachers to use in the classroom to enhance their students' visit to the National Eagle Center.

We also continue to look for ways to expand our educational themes and enhance the visitor's experience through new programs and exhibits.

In 2015, we are partnering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge for a new exhibit interpreting the conservation history and importance of that Refuge.

Perhaps the biggest change coming in 2015 is our eagle care expansion. We will be leasing space in a nearby building to provide our senior eagle ambassador, Harriet, with retirement housing suited to her current needs brought on by her advanced age. In addition, we'll be able to house and train new eagles to prepare them to be the next great eagle ambassadors.

All of this is supported by an all volunteer Board of Directors working in effective partnership with professional staff. In the past year we expanded the Board to 13 very engaged members who have focused on issues of organizational governance, strategic planning and fundraising. Board and staff are proud of the National Eagle Center's accomplishments and excited to work together on our very bright future.

And we would especially like to thank the hundreds of members, donors and volunteers who support the mission and work of the National Eagle Center everyday!

James and Rolf



# Making an Impact in 2014

Attendance: 68,267

Members: 1,134

Everyday we strive to ensure that every visitor can experience the wonder of meeting live eagles up close, while learning about them in engaging and educational programs.

In addition to our three daily programs for the general public, we have a regular schedule of tour groups and school visits.



## Reaching out:

In 2014 our naturalist educators and eagle ambassadors took to the road offering programs to audiences from St. Cloud to Chicago and dozens of places in between.

**51 outreach programs**  
reaching more than **14,000 people**

## 181 special group programs:

**95 adult or senior tour groups**  
reaching **2,727 people**

**86 school or youth groups**  
reaching **3,266 students**

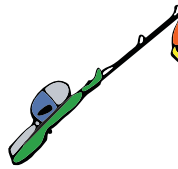
## SOAR with the Eagles

Our SOAR with the Eagles festival in March is our biggest event of the year. With flying bird shows every week-end and dozens of special programs, we reached an audience of just over 10,000 people in the month of March.



### SOAR with the Eagles Raffle

raised more than \$9,000 and offered great prizes including a Wenonah Canoe, Vortex binoculars and an AmericInn Suite stay.



## Fishing for Eagles

### 504 kids

learned about fish of the Mississippi River and responsible angling. Many experienced fishing for the first time. Each participant received a bag of lead-free tackle to take home for their next fishing adventure!



## Eagle viewing field trips

**183 participants**

enjoyed opportunities to view bald and golden eagles in the wild on winter eagle viewing field trips with our expert naturalist guides.



**70 fish**

representing 9 different species were donated to feed the bald eagle ambassadors.



## Primary Feather Circle

### \$10,000 +

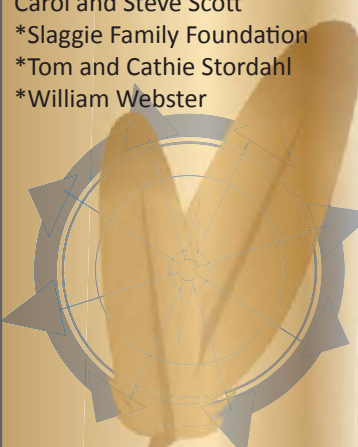
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This Endowment Fund was established in 2014 to provide the National Eagle Center with on-going support and long-term financial stability. Contact Rolf Thompson for more information.

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We are grateful for the following grants to support the mission and programs of the National Eagle Center, the Golden Eagle Project and our newest exhibit, Masters of the Sky; Raptors, Flight and Migration.

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*\$45+ continued ...*

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Wasaka greets a crowd for Bald Eagle Watch in Clinton, VA

Alan and Kelly Theis  
\*Linda Thomas  
Nels Thompson and Marilyn  
Nash  
Erik and Trena Thompson  
\*Ronald and Mary Thompson  
\*Marie Tilson  
Greg and Mary Toomire  
\*Russel Tordoff  
Roger and Sue Towler  
Cheryl Towner

Ronald Traetow  
Patricia and Sheridyn Trotter  
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Jason Westcott and April  
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Dennis Wigle and Nancy  
Radakovic  
\*Ruth Williams  
Curt and Alice Williamson  
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Wylie and Jennifer Wilson  
Jeremy and Tammy Winch  
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Trenton and Ivy Witmer  
Michael and Connie Wittek  
Robert and Ellen Wojciechowski  
Scott and Tamara Woker  
JL Wolfe  
Bruce and Vikki Wolff  
Terry and Catherine Wright  
Luis and Aili Yciano  
Chuck and Dona Yetter  
Craig Young  
Thomas Young  
\*Mark Zimmerman and Kim  
Neuvar

**\$25+**

Ardis Aarhus  
Donald Adams  
Michael Aho  
Rachel Aspenson  
Barbara Bahnson  
Barbara Bates  
\*Joann Baumgart  
Joe Becker  
Cynthia Behrens  
Mary Berg  
Bruce Berghoff  
\*Karin Berkholtz  
Eric D Bester

Rick Betsinger  
Lavonne Bianchi  
Blair-Preston Public Library  
Cynthia Blume  
Susan Borgen  
Ann Bosch  
\*Sharon Burke  
\*Ellen Butterfield  
Kathryn Cahill  
\*Rory Cameron  
\*Ronald Carlson  
Jerry Chadderton  
\*Jo Ellen Christiansen  
Jarolynn Christianson  
\*Bill Cinquegrani  
Kimberly Clark  
Margaret Cleveland  
Richard Cooper  
Bruce Cornwall  
\*Catherine Cory  
\*Darlene Cournoyer  
\*Joyce Craig  
\*Denise Cronin  
Lawrence Czosnek  
David Danckwart  
Diane Davison  
Jane De Broux  
\*Tom and Nancy Diener  
\*Robert Dilla  
James and Margaret Douglas  
\*Jane Doyle  
Joan Eckerly  
Mary Ehrich  
\*Tracy Ekberg  
Julie Erickson  
\*Gary Erickson  
\*Lynn Eskola  
Bridget Evens  
Keith and Jennifer Evenson  
\*Mila Falbaum  
\*Rick Fenske  
\*Richard Fick  
\*Carol Fitzgerald  
Debbie Formato  
Penny Foster  
Roy and Marcia Frack  
Fraternal Order of Eagles #2258  
Fraternal Order of Eagles #287  
John Frohmader  
Jean Fuher  
Mary Funk  
\*Leslie Gentner  
\*Tom Gibson  
Fran Gillen  
Lee Glenn  
\*Barbara Godfrey  
Eleanor Groby  
Joyce Gross  
\*Beverly Hall  
\*Cheryl Hanson

## Gifts to the National Eagle Center were made in honor of the following:

**American Legion Post 290** - Elise Packineau

**The Angen Family** - Anonymous

**Valerie Bausch** - Thomas and Janet Walker,  
Peter and Mary Connelly, Scott and Tamara Woker

**Peter Benson** - Brittany Hestad

**Ellie Crosby** - Ward and Shotsy Johnson

**The Decorah Bald Eagles** - Kim Meline

**Nan and Spike Eklund** - Ward and Shotsy Johnson

**sheila ffoliott** - Ward and Shotsy Johnson

**Sean Hannigan** - John and Dawn Hannigan

**Shepard Krech** - Ward and Shotsy Johnson

**Chuck and Babs Larsen** - Jane Doyle

**Dwaine Marlow** - Patricia Marlow

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**Mary Rivers** - William and LaDonna Jewson

**Kathy Silverthorn** - Pat Mutter

**Mike and Karlin Symons** - Ward and Shotsy Johnson

**Rod and Cecie Titcomb** - Ward and Shotsy Johnson



At the end of 2014, our senior eagle ambassador Harriet, challenged us to raise the funds for an expansion of our eagle care facilities.

Members of our Board of Directors and special friends agreed to match donations in November and December, up to \$31,000. In all more than 350 donors stepped forward to help us meet Harriet's Challenge, and exceed the matching goal!

Thank you to everyone who contributed!

These funds make it possible to:

- Expand our eagle care facilities and provide Harriet with retirement housing
- Continue to inspire thousands of people through innovative educational programs
- Provide on-going care for all our rescued eagle ambassadors

*\*Denotes a contributor to Harriet's Challenge*

\$25+ continued ...

Jayne Harris

Gary Harrison

Carol Hastings

Pamela Haukaas

\*Mary Hayes

Marcia Heil

\*Joan Heinen

Kay Hickey

Marilyn Hoff

Jennifer Hoffman

Wendy Holdman

Ben Hovell

\*Brian Huberty

\*Mark Hultine

\*Patti Humphrey

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\*Kathie Jensen

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\*Adrienne Kinkaid

\*Richard Kiscaden

\*Sean Lydon and Roberta

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Randy and Lori Williams

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\*Shawn Willy

Anna Mae Wodele

William J Wolcott

William Wold

Marilyn Wolter

Chuck Zabel

Jon Zabowski

Karen Zacharias

Lynn Zilinsky

Katherine Zumbrunnen

Nadine Zwettler



## Memorial gifts to the National Eagle Center

**Bruce Baumgart** - Joann Baumgart

**Preston Chapman** - Dawn Nedland

**Cord Daentl** - Scott and Lori Daentl

**Ruth Gale Doffing** - Gale Gill

**Bill and Marge Ecklund** - Gail Gieseke

**Nancy Fotland** -

Glenn and Joan Affeldt

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**Walter Hunt** - Michelle Evjen

**Harley Kingsbury** - Ralph Kingsbury

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**Donna Krucki** - Anonymous

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**Karen Ostbye** - Mike and Karlin Symons

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**Dorothy Rech** - Mark and Janine Younce,  
James and Margaret Douglas

**Eleanor Roschen-Stroot** - Mary Fuchs,  
Larry Roschen,

Lee and Denise Roschen


**Laurie Rudrud** - Renee Hood

**Peter Solberg** - The family of Dr. Peter Solberg

**Joseph and Joyce Spannbauer** - Joyce  
Falkenstein

**Bob Wilson** - Lisa Zapzalka

## Eagles Honoring Veterans



On Veterans Day weekend we welcomed all veterans and active duty members of the military with a flag raising ceremony and complimentary admission. One of our bald eagle ambassadors was also present at Wabasha's Memorial Day commemoration. And in quarterly visits to the VA hospital in Minneapolis, we offered the chance for wounded veterans to meet our nation's symbol.



## **VOLUNTEERS** help make it all happen!

Volunteers contribute thousands of hours each year to make possible all the great programs and events at the National Eagle Center. Our thanks to the following volunteers for their passion and dedication throughout the year.

JoAnn Abbott  
Suzanne Blue  
Don and Sonia Buck  
Al Cooper  
Jim and Mahria DePaolo  
Bill Dunn  
Randy Eggenberger  
Tessa Galarnyk  
Howard Gorder  
Amy Hamann  
CJ Jacobson  
Don Jacoby  
Vicky Jaskierski  
Emily Johnson  
Ward Johnson  
McKenzie Kline  
Chad Kjorlien

Dave Kostik  
Jerry and Carol Knabe  
Ron Laack and Judy Ashonmacher  
Jon Lineweaver  
Guy Marshall  
Ran Miner  
Victoria Moore  
Mike Perry  
Jeanne Pietig  
Rae Rasmussen  
James Reidy  
Cindy Schlosser  
Tim Schlagenhaft  
Carol Scott  
Emma Spoon  
Karlin Symons  
John Wodele

Three student interns also helped with summer programs, eagle care projects and the Golden Eagle Project.



Our thanks to these students for all their time and hard work:

Heather Gosse  
McKenna Schaffer  
Courtney Wohlman

Intern McKenna Schaffer with the food web interactive display she created.

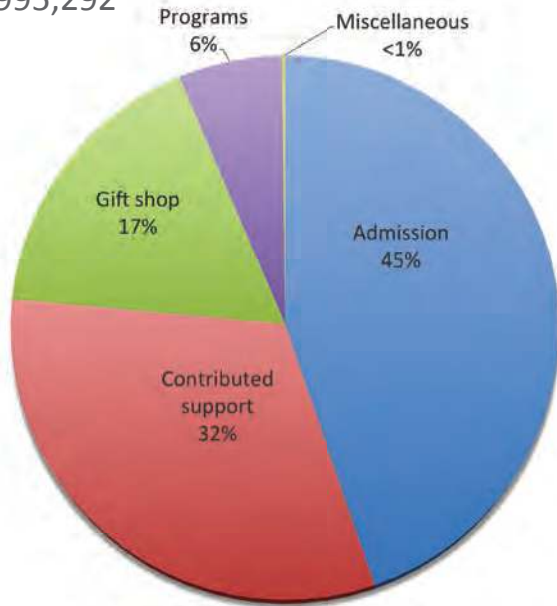
# Financial Statements for Eaglewatch, Inc. dba National Eagle Center

## Fiscal Year 2014

(July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014)

FY 2014 Income

\$995,292



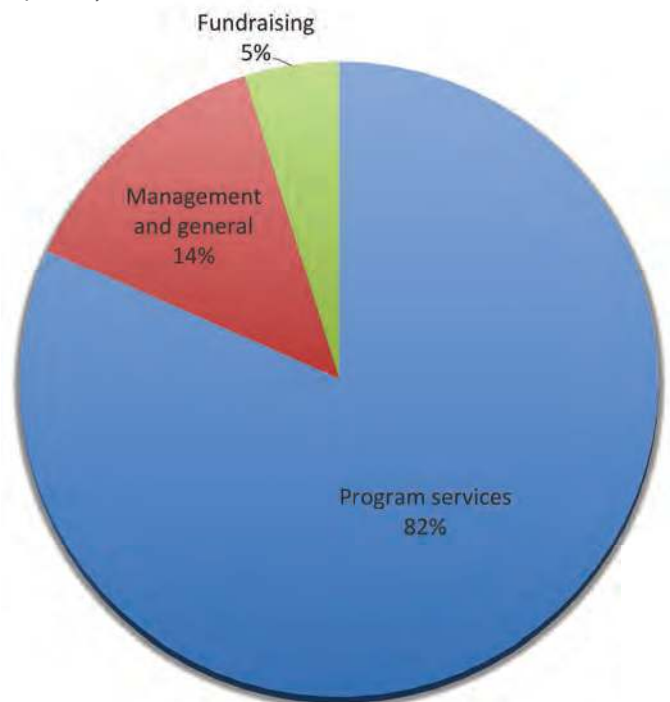
### National Eagle Center Board of Directors (l to r)

Tim Schlagenhaft, Dave Kostik, Ward Johnson, Ran Miner,  
Don Jacoby, Suzanne Blue, James Reidy, Carol Scott, Jon Lineweaver,  
Victoria Moore, Randy Eggenberger, John Wodele, Chad Kjolrien

Hawkins Ash CPAs completed an external audit of the National Eagle Center's financial statements.  
Additional financial information is available at [nationaleaglecenter.org](http://nationaleaglecenter.org).

## FY2014 Expenses

\$992,450



### National Eagle Center staff

Executive Director - Rolf Thompson  
 Director of Finance and Administration - Alison Springer  
 Director of Public Relations - Eileen Hanson  
 Education Director - Scott Mehus  
 Director of Eagle Care - Bridget Befort  
 Facilities Manager - Bryan Hall  
 Naturalist and Avian Care - Jennifer Drayna  
 Naturalist and Watershed Gallery Curator - Anna Christenson  
 Marketing and Programs Coordinator - Danielle Dugaard  
 Administrative Assistant - June Mullen  
 Naturalist - Robert 'Bucky' Flores  
 Maintenance - Steve Flak, Michelle Rasmussen  
 Gift Store Buyer - Melissa Bush  
 Admissions and Gift Store - Annette Hedquist, Jeanie Mickow,  
 Linda Diggins, Lora Richardson, Mary Klees, Steve Marks,  
 Michaela Danzinger



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Jerry Arens  
 State Farm Insurance

*A Vision Takes Flight:  
 A History of the National Eagle Center 1989-2014*

The book chronicles the growth of the organization from its days as Eaglewatch, with volunteers spotting eagles from a wooden observation deck along the river, to the organization that now inhabits a 15,000 square foot interpretive center that greets 75,000 visitors each year from around the world.

“The story of the National Eagle Center illustrates the power of community working together to make great things happen” says National Eagle Center Executive Director, Rolf Thompson. Authors CJ Jacobson and Peg Bauernfeind capture the community feeling in *A Vision Takes Flight*. Through interviews with early supporters and volunteers, they tell the story of how the vision came to be what is today the National Eagle Center.

On sale now at the National Eagle Center, \$12.95 + tax.

