Eagle lovers will soon have a new book to celebrate along with the 30th anniversary of the National Eagle Center. American Eagle: A Visual History of Our National Emblem by Preston Cook will be released in April. A survey of The Preston Cook Collection, it will be the only book covering the eagle emblem in American life and culture in such detail. National Eagle Center Executive Director Rolf Thompson provided the Foreword. Beautifully photographed and illustrated, the book highlights some of the 25,000 eagle art and objects in The Collection that will be housed and exhibited in the National Eagle Center expansion. The book charts the bald eagle’s appearance in American life covering everything from Military and War to Politics and Protest to Travel and Transportation.

“In the expanded museum, The Collection will provide opportunities to inspire and educate people in new ways. This book is an incredible complement to the National Eagle Center experience of everything eagle,” says Rolf Thompson. When the National Eagle Center expansion is completed, visitors will see The Collection in permanent and rotating museum exhibits and galleries. Imagine an exhibit touring the eagle as seen in children’s entertainment with eagle toys, eagle banks, kites, comic books, candy prizes, and club badges decorated with outspread eagle wings. Or exploring how the eagle has been used by the US military to inspire, motivate and unify. Or the eagle in... New Eagle Book Premieres During 30th Anniversary

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Meet National Eagle Center Champion Don Jacoby

It could be said that Don Jacoby has eagle-like vision. He recognized how important eagles were to Wabasha early in the National Eagle Center’s history and is now focused on the future.

What is your member story?

In 1993 my wife Mary and I bought a seasonal home in Wabasha. We knew of the Chamber of Commerce and volunteer efforts to bring people to Wabasha to see eagles with EagleWatch, which is now the National Eagle Center. We have been members for over 20 years, since 1998, when the National Eagle Center was located in a small store on Main Street.

Why did you get involved as a volunteer?

We moved to Wabasha permanently in 2002. As a member of Wabasha’s Economic Development Committee, I got involved in the planning of a new facility for the National Eagle Center. I got involved because in my work with agricultural dealers I saw that smaller towns were struggling. I was convinced Wabasha was heading the right direction.

The expansion is so important to offer these opportunities to more people in facilities that can provide a world class experience.

Why is the National Eagle Center’s expansion important?

The National Eagle Center needs to expand so that more visitors can enjoy not only the live eagle ambassadors but the inspiration and education visitors experience with the staff and volunteers.

With the addition of The Preston Cook Collection the National Eagle Center experience will be more complete and faceted as people engage with new exhibits of eagles in history and culture.

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The last crucial step was training Latsch to appear in front of large groups of people. First he spent time in the classroom alone with a trainer, then with people in the back and middle rows and finally in the front row.

After a year of patient, persistent, and intense training, Latsch was ready to assume his ambassador role. Since March 2018 Latsch has provided 197 programs inspiring thousands of people thanks to the passionate commitment of Ploehn and her team. Because Latsch was so young when he came to the Center he may serve as an ambassador for decades to come.

Ploehn and Lueck will be presenting at the 2019 International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators Conference in Orlando, FL.

Celebrate 30 with gift membership! Help us celebrate 30 years of inspiring people with eagles by giving the gift of membership to your friends and family! Membership starts at $30! Learn More at nationaleaglecenter.org/membership