

The Ambassador Issue

From Foster to Forever: The Animals Who Stayed

As the long days of summer begin to shorten, the pace at Red Creek Wildlife Center doesn't slow—it shifts. The nursery, once bustling with tiny, fragile lives, now echoes with the confidence of young animals preparing for freedom. Baby season has been busy, exhausting, and incredibly rewarding—and thanks to you, it's also been a tremendous success.

This summer, thousands of injured and orphaned wild animals found their way to Red Creek. With your help, we gave them a second chance. From the smallest songbirds to wide-eyed fawns, each life was met with compassion, expertise, and the unwavering dedication of our team. Many have already returned to the wild where they belong, while others are still growing under our care, gaining the strength and skills they need to survive.

Not every wild animal can go home. In this issue, you'll meet some of the new permanent residents who now serve as Red Creek's ambassadors—teaching the public about their species and inspiring future generations of wildlife advocates. You'll also be introduced to several animals in our foster program—those who, while non-releasable themselves, help raise wild orphans by giving them the social cues and confidence only their own kind can provide.

We're also excited to invite you to our upcoming Open House this October, a rare opportunity to step behind the scenes at Red Creek. Meet our ambassadors in person, see our work up close, and celebrate another successful season with us.

Everything we do—from emergency rescues to long-term rehabilitation—is possible because of your support. Whether you donated supplies, shared our posts, volunteered your time, or simply cheered us on from afar, you've made a real impact.

Thank you for standing with us and with Pennsylvania's wild creatures. Their stories, and their futures, are being written because of you.

With gratitude, ~Peggy

Cunning, Curious, and Caring: Meet the Foxes of Red Creek

In addition to two Silver Foxes, Dusk and Dawn, who have been part of the Red Creek family for years, a few special foxes have found a permanent home with us. Each of them has a story as unique as their paw prints.

Lilith is a female Gray Fox whose unusual appearance is the result of either genetic abnormalities or surviving canine distemper as a young kit. She has a shortened snout and a few missing teeth, but don't let that fool you—she's as lively and clever as they come.

Her energetic, curious nature and occasional bursts of mischief make her a delight to observe. Lilith reminds us that even with challenges, wild spirit finds a way to shine.



Rhea is a female Red Fox with a face and heart you won't forget. Featured in our 2023 Christmas newsletter, she came to us as a baby—abandoned but initially healthy. As she grew, her caregivers noticed she was smaller than her littermates, prone to respiratory infections, and incredibly gentle. A CT scan revealed deformities in her skull and jaw, including a painful canine that threatened her nasal passage. Surgery relieved the worst of her discomfort, but the extent of her dental issues made her unsuitable for release.



Despite her medical challenges, Rhea has flourished at Red Creek. Her calm demeanor and nurturing instincts make her an ideal surrogate for orphaned fox kits, gently showing them how to be wild without fear or aggression. She was named after **Rhea**, the Greek goddess of motherhood—a title she continues to earn every day.

Swift, Fierce, and Feathered: Meet Red Creek's Falcons



Falcons are nature's high-speed hunters—built for speed, precision, and agility. Whether it's the lightning dive of a Peregrine, the darting maneuver of a Merlin, or the hovering hunt of an American Kestrel, each falcon species has its own incredible style. At Red Creek Wildlife Center, we're proud to care for several falcon ambassadors who—while no longer able to live in the wild—continue to educate and inspire.

Meet **Napoleon**, our pint-sized ruler of the skies. This male American Kestrel may be the smallest falcon species in Pennsylvania, but he carries himself with all the confidence of a king. Tiny but mighty, he truly lives up to his name. As a juvenile, Napoleon was discovered begging members of the public for food, indicating he had imprinted on humans and lacked the skills to survive on his own. Now, he reigns as a favorite among staff and visitors alike, charming everyone with his bold personality.

Dynamite is a female Merlin falcon with a personality that's true to her name. After suffering a severe wing injury in a vehicle collision, Dynamite was left unable to fly. While her personality can be explosive at times, she's also one of our calmest falcons when she's in her comfort zone. She loves taking baths, vocalizing with gusto at feeding time, and spending quiet moments near her neighbor Napoleon.



And last, we have **Beacon**, a female Peregrine Falcon and one of the most majestic birds in our care. While Peregrines often nest on bridges and skyscrapers—including New York's Newburgh-Beacon Bridge—our Beacon got her name for another reason: her presence brought hope and healing to our team following the devastating fire at Red Creek. With a permanent wing injury and a chronic respiratory condition, Beacon isn't able to hunt or fly at full speed, but she still enjoys sunbathing, mealtime, and reminding us all what resilience looks like.

A Note on Our Elders

While some of our residents are just beginning their work as ambassadors and fosters, others are enjoying a well-earned rest. **Gabby the Great Horned Owl**, **Cookie the Barred Owl**, (both now over 30 years old) and **HanniBell the Turkey Vulture** (over 20 Years old) have been with Red Creek for decades. Though they no longer attend education programs regularly, they continue to help us behind the scenes, offering guidance and stability to young orphans in need. We're honored to still have them with us.

Ms. Peeps the Red Shouldered Hawk



Although not a falcon, **Ms. Peeps** rounds out our new hawk residents. This female Red-shouldered Hawk came to Red Creek with a damaged eye, making hunting in the wild impossible. Red-shouldered hawks are "buteos" or soaring hawks in the same classification as Red-tailed hawks. Although smaller than RTHs, they have big personalities.

Initially shy after her transfer from another rehab center, Ms. Peeps soon settled in—and her quirky personality emerged. Now, she's known for hopping between perches and "peeping" at anyone who walks by.

It's On! Red Creek's Fall Open House Returns October 11th

Mark your calendars and grab your binoculars—**Red Creek's Open House is back!**

After having to postpone the event this past spring, we're thrilled to announce that our beloved event **is ON** for **Saturday, October 11th, 2025, from 11 AM to 4 PM.**

Join us for a day of **wildlife, food, fun, and discovery** as we open our doors to the public for this once-a-year celebration. Enjoy wildlife programs featuring some of our amazing ambassador animals, meet local rescue organizations, play family-friendly games, grab lunch from local vendors, and take a rare look behind the scenes at Red Creek Wildlife Center.

This event is our way of saying thank you—to our supporters, neighbors, and the incredible community that makes our work possible. It's a perfect day for animal lovers of all ages, and we can't wait to share it with you.

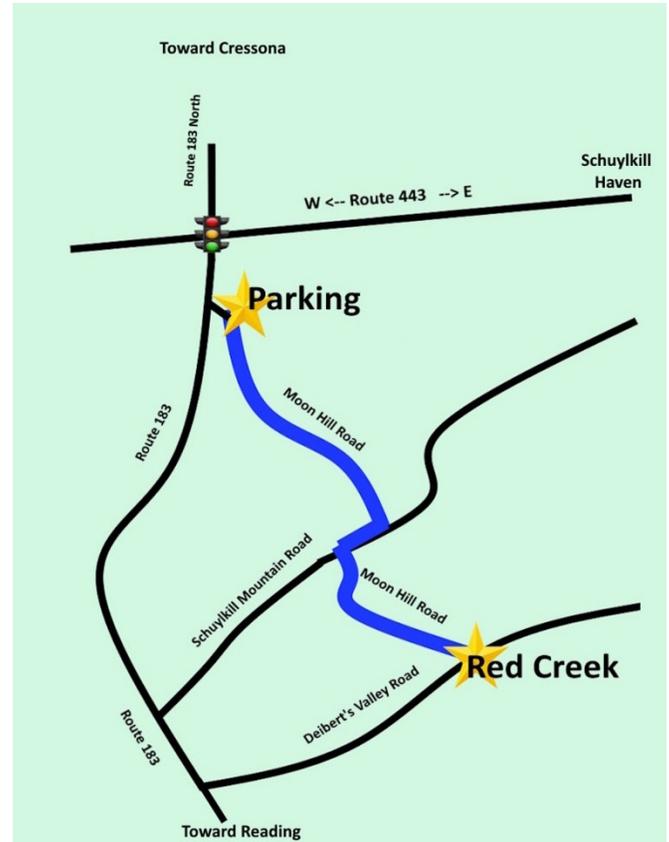
Important Parking Update

Due to a scheduling conflict, we will **not** be using the church parking lot as in previous years. **Parking at Red Creek is extremely limited**, so please follow the **parking diagram on the right** to locate the designated off-site parking area.

To make your visit easy and accessible, **shuttle vans will run continuously throughout the day**, transporting visitors to and from the parking lot.

P **Handicapped parking will still be available at Red Creek**—please display your placard and let our volunteers know upon arrival.

We can't wait to see you there!



From Abandoned to Beloved: Maggie's Journey

Say hello to **Maggie**, a female Striped Skunk with a story that speaks to both hardship and healing. She was originally brought to another wildlife rehabilitation center with wounds on her back and was significantly overweight—an unhealthy condition for any wild animal. It was also discovered that she had been de-scented, a procedure typically done to pet skunks. These clues pointed to a sad reality: Maggie had likely been someone's pet, then dumped when she was no longer wanted or manageable.

Unable to defend herself or survive in the wild, Maggie remained shy and withdrawn for quite some time. But with patience, care, and a safe environment, she has slowly come out of her shell. Now, having shed the excess weight and gained confidence, Maggie is revealing her sweet and gentle nature. She's still learning to trust, but every day shows us more of the curious spirit that makes her truly special.



All Pennsylvania non-profit solicitations are required to include the following statement:
"The official registration and financial information of Red Creek Wildlife Center, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999.
Registration does not imply endorsement."

Clever Minds and Curious Hearts: Meet Red Creek's Corvids

Corvids—members of the crow family—are among the most intelligent and misunderstood birds in the animal kingdom. Known for their problem-solving skills, playful nature, and complex social lives, these birds form deep bonds with their flock, communicate through a wide range of vocalizations, and even use tools.

At Red Creek, we are lucky to share space with two remarkable corvid ambassadors: **Kaz the American Crow** and **Mazie the Common Raven**.

Say hello to **Kaz**—and she might just say hello right back! This female American Crow was raised illegally by a well-meaning member of the public after being found as a baby. Without



proper nutrition or care, she developed a calcium deficiency that affected her health. Even more concerning, she imprinted on humans, learning to see people not as a threat but as her social group.

Now a permanent resident at Red Creek, Kaz is a favorite among staff and volunteers. She's incredibly vocal and has even learned to mimic human speech, greeting visitors and caregivers alike with a cheerful "hello!" While she can't return to the wild, Kaz plays an important role in educating the public about the unique challenges corvids face—and the dangers of raising wild animals outside of licensed care.

Mazie a female Common Raven, came to us from another wildlife center and was extremely shy at first. Like many corvids, Mazie has a rich inner world and forms strong emotional connections—but it takes time to earn her trust. That all changed this summer when she was given the opportunity to foster a single baby raven. It was a turning point.

The two played, vocalized, and bonded in a way only ravens can. Through that experience, Mazie's personality bloomed. She became more confident, more interactive, and more expressive. Watching her teach and guide the young raven was both heartwarming and awe-inspiring—a reminder that even in captivity, wild instincts and social needs run deep.

Together, Kaz and Mazie help us shine a light on just how remarkable corvids truly are. They're not just black feathers and sharp eyes—they're thinkers, teachers, and companions with stories worth sharing.



Ways you can help

 Redner's Save • A • Tape	It's as easy as 1 • 2 • 3 1. Ask for a "Save • A • Tape" card at the customer service desk. 2. Use your card each time you shop. 3. Save the tapes and mail them to c/o Bonnie Bohnenblust Red Creek Wildlife Center 300 Moon Hill Drive Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
Do you shop at Redner's Market? Each time you shop, you can help save wildlife. Redner's will donate 1% of your purchases to Red Creek Wildlife Center!	

Visit our wish lists at

<https://redcreekwildlifecenter.com/donate/>

<p>Donate Today</p> 
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Slow, Smooth, and Scaled: Life with Red Creek's Reptiles

They may not chirp, chatter, or race around their enclosures, but the reptiles of Red Creek have a quiet charm all their own. With ancient eyes, calm movements, and a unique way of engaging the world, these cold-blooded ambassadors offer a different—but no less meaningful—connection to nature.



Take **Dandelion**, for example, our gentle Eastern Box Turtle. With her easygoing attitude and serene presence, she seems perfectly content with her life in human care. Whether she's slowly exploring her terrarium, soaking in her water dish, or calmly taking part in an education program, Dandelion has a way of making everyone who meets her slow down and smile. And although turtles aren't exactly known for expressive faces, we'd argue she wears one of the most peaceful smiles in the center.

Then there's **Fettuccini**, a young Corn Snake who's earned a reputation as our quiet little escape artist. Not native to Pennsylvania, Fettuccini was likely once a pet—now living a peaceful, well-cared-for life at Red Creek. Most days, this slender beauty can be found nestled in the tunnels they've carved into the bedding of their enclosure, only occasionally venturing out to climb or bask under a warm light. They're shy, no doubt—but still endlessly fascinating.



Emerald, a lively Painted Turtle, adds some extra pep to our reptile room. Despite spending more than 20 years as someone's pet, he still has the energy and appetite of a much younger turtle.



Mealworms are his favorite treat, and he would gladly devour them every day if we let him. Though he'll never be returned to the wild, Emerald seems to enjoy his role at Red Creek, bringing color, movement, and curiosity to every interaction.

Each of these reptiles reminds us that wildlife education isn't just about the furry or the feathered. Scaled friends have their own quiet wisdom—and their own stories to tell. Whether it's the steady gaze of a turtle or the graceful motion of a snake, their presence helps us teach patience, respect, and the beauty of every life, no matter how slow or slithery.

You're Invited

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
at Red Creek Wildlife Center

October 11th, 2025
11 am to 4 pm

Food – Games – Wildlife Programs



Silent Wings, Wise Eyes: Meet Red Creek's Owl Ambassadors

Owls have always captured the human imagination with their silent flight, piercing gaze, and mysterious presence. At Red Creek Wildlife Center, our resident owls are not only awe-inspiring—they're essential teachers and caregivers. Whether they're helping raise orphaned young or inspiring the next generation of wildlife advocates, each owl has a unique story to tell.

Cedar and Hemlock are a perfectly matched pair of Eastern Screech Owls—Cedar in striking red-phase plumage and Hemlock in soft gray. Despite their small size, these owls have played a big role at Red Creek. Cedar lives with a permanent wing injury, and Hemlock suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car collision. Together, they've become a remarkable fostering team, helping raise many young screech owlets by providing them with the companionship, communication, and social structure that only other owls can offer.



Meet **Earl Gray**, a male Barred Owl with a calm and contemplative spirit. His permanent wing injury brought him into our care, but his gentle presence made him unforgettable. Earl can often be found perched quietly near the front of his enclosure, observing the comings and goings of daily life with quiet curiosity. Though we don't know much about his life before his injury, we imagine he was always this way—watching the forest from high above, still and wise.

Flapjack, a male Barn Owl with a special story. Unlike most of our residents, Flapjack was bred and raised in captivity. We've had the rare joy of watching him grow from a fuzzy white chick into a sleek, confident adult. Like any teenager, he went through his awkward phases, but his journey has been full of charm and character. Watching him learn and thrive has been a privilege—and we're excited for the many years ahead with this quirky, golden-faced ambassador.



Thank you for spending time with some of the incredible ambassador animals who help us teach, inspire, and connect. These permanent residents—each with their own story—serve as powerful messengers for wild lives and wild places.

While they may no longer roam freely, they continue to make a difference every day, helping us build understanding and compassion for the animals who can.

This vital work is only possible because of you.

Summer can be a quiet time for giving, but the needs of our ambassador animals—and the wild ones still coming through our doors—remain constant. Your gift, in any amount, helps us provide expert care, nourishing food, and safe, enriching homes for those who stay and those who pass through.

From all of us at Red Creek, thank you for standing with wildlife.