

Teton Raptor Center
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Teton Raptor Center Honors Its Amazing Volunteers

Jackson Hole, Wyoming – On Wednesday, September 17th, Teton Raptor Center (TRC)'s birds, staff and board gathered to honor more than 40 community members who gave over 4,435 hours of time and talent so far this year to support the Center's mission of helping birds of prey through education, conservation and rehabilitation. "This evening is all about community – the generous community of volunteers, Teton Raptor Center's ambassadors and everyday heroes, who contribute time, talent and heart to serve the community of raptors that inspire all of us," said Amy Brennan McCarthy, TRC's Executive Director.

Lisa Friesecke and Kevin Coughlan both earned a TRC Ambassador-of-the-Year Award in recognition of their tireless support and dedication to Teton Raptor Center. Lisa ran TRC's office and store four days per week in the spring, summer and fall, oversaw an extremely successful Raptorfest auction, and still managed to help with raptor rescues and rehabilitation. Kevin has been volunteering at TRC for over five years and continues to be the first in line to offer his craftsmanship and care to numerous projects that benefit the birds, staff and facility. The new Junior Ambassador-of-the-Year Award went to a very deserving Gabriel Lewis, who rode his bike each week to TRC to provide support for birds and guests as a "Raptor Encounters" docent.

Also honored this year were two Golden Owl Award winners - Stine Richvoldsen and Bob Haynam. This award recognizes those people who quietly work behind the scenes to help TRC accomplish its goals. Stine and Bob have been two of the most reliable volunteers this year, from helping create an on-line database for tracking raptor patients and care to working on a list of never-ending construction/maintenance projects. Becca Bredehoff received TRC's Artist-of-the-Year Award for her wonderful photographic talent and ability to capture and share various TRC events and portraits of TRC's resident raptors. Special thanks also went to Teton Raptor Center's Education Hero - Aaron Couch, Conservation Hero - Bev Boynton, Rescue Hero - Jessie Stirling, and Rehab Hero - Sue Ernisse. These valuable volunteers put hundreds of hours into caring for raptors to benefit both the birds and TRC's education, conservation and rehabilitation efforts.

"Without the help of our amazing volunteers, Teton Raptor Center would not be able to serve the community at the level that we do. Our volunteers make it possible for us to aid over 100 raptors that are injured, ill and orphaned each year; they help us provide unique educational experiences to more than 25,000 people; and they make it possible for us to conduct conservation initiatives across the nation," said David Watson, TRC's Director of Development and Communications.

For more information on how you can volunteer for Teton Raptor Center, or other upcoming events, please contact David Watson at 307.690.7654, or visit: www.tetonraptorcenter.org or find us on Facebook.

Teton Raptor Center helps birds of prey through education, conservation and rehabilitation.
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