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**Teton Raptor Center Celebrates 10,832 Hours of Volunteer Service
at Ambassador Appreciation Night**

Jackson Hole, Wyoming – On Tuesday, January 7th, Teton Raptor Center (TRC)'s staff and board gathered to honor community members who have donated over 10,832 hours of time and talent in 2019, to support the Center's mission of advancing raptor conservation through education, research, and rehabilitation. In addition to hours donated, TRC's Raptor Rescue Network volunteers drove 6,370 miles to help transport injured birds throughout Wyoming and Idaho to care.

TRC's annual Ambassador Appreciation Night kicked off with a delicious dinner generously donated by Aspen's Market. The evening continued with a challenging quiz game, which tested the volunteers' knowledge of TRC and raptors in general. The evening ended with highlights of ambassador accomplishments and an award ceremony. In 2019, TRC had 23 volunteers join the rankings of Talon Society, which is achieved by donating 100 hours within a calendar year. Fourteen volunteers attained multi-year Talon Society status.

"TRC's ambassadors are dedicated on a level beyond what we could dream. With nearly 11,000 hours dedicated in 2019, we are humbled and so appreciative of this incredible team of people who are willing to give of themselves for the birds," said Jessie Walters, TRC's Administrative and Volunteer Coordinator.

Lauren McClees earned the TRC Ambassador-of-the-Year Award in recognition of her dedication to all three pillars: education, research, and rehabilitation. McClees also served as the Volunteer Liaison to assist with volunteer duties during the latter half of the year. **Patti Mull** received the Golden Owl Award, which recognizes people who quietly work behind the scenes to help TRC accomplish its goals. Mull was awarded for her dedication to the birds and for after-hour assistance with patients. The Junior Ambassador-of-the-Year Award went to one of TRC's many youth volunteers, **Piper Nay**. Nay was awarded for her willingness to jump on any task and for her enthusiasm for learning. The Parliament Award went to **Litt Clark, Kathy Smith, and Emily Smith** for their continued dedication as a family to Teton Raptor Center and for their wealth of knowledge that has engaged thousands of program participants. **Jackie Potter** was recognized as the Rehabilitation Hero for her weekly assistance in the rehab clinic and for her devotion to after-hour care with patients. **Bill Finerty** was awarded the new, Silent Flyer Award. Finerty was

recognized for his eagerness to help the birds and his humble and dependable service. The Research Hero went to **Charlie Jones** for his consistent dedication to aiding TRC's field studies. Jones spent most of the summer on various research projects. **Sue Ernisse** earned the Education Hero title for sharing her enthusiasm and passion for raptors to educate visitors of all ages. The Poo-Poo Project Hero was **June Green** for her continued assistance in protecting cavity-nesting birds and for helping to expand the project to all fifty states and Canada. Green donated 312 hours from afar by contacting federal and state land managers about the Poo-Poo Project! **Sammy Douville** was awarded the Artist of the Year award for sharing her creative talents to produce avian-inspired education tools and displays.

Education Hero Sue Ernisse noted to the staff, "Thank you for your incredible guidance that helps us continue to grow as volunteers."

In addition to the staggering service statistics, TRC also shared some other key stats from 2019; 125 raptor patients admitted to the rehabilitation clinic, 2,761 days of care for all patients, 430 live raptor education programs, and 47,264 program participants.

For more information on how you can join the volunteer team at Teton Raptor Center, please contact Teton Raptor Center at 307.203.2551, visit: www.tetonraptorcenter.org, or find us on Facebook. TRC's next volunteer orientation will take place on Friday, January 10th from 4:00-5:30pm. Please call to register.

Teton Raptor Center advances raptor conservation through education, research, and rehabilitation.
www.tetonraptorcenter.org -- 307.203.2551