



[Raptor Flight Show](#) and [White Mountain Nature Center](#)

## Email Newsletter ~ February 19, 2023

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### **Raptor Show news for this week:**

- Enrichment Happy Hour THIS Thursday
- Balinda & John Presented at International Conference
- 23 skunk names have been submitted! 1 more week to submit yours

If you want to donate, [click here](#) and then click the Raptor Show Donation button - *we need your help* to feed and care for our show ambassadors and to build their new enclosures and viewing area.

Thank you so much!

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## Enrichment Happy Hour This Thursday at 5 PM

Wine, cheese, crackers, cookies, cold cuts, and lots of fun and friendly people. Bring your favorite wine to share if you wish. We bring the supplies, and show you what we need to keep the animals curious and engaged.

John & Balinda selected to present a paper at the International Association of Avian Trainers Conference in Orlando





Balinda and John were selected to present a paper at a bird training Conference this year. One of the highlights of the conference was the video showcase, and one of the videos presented was our own super-star Azul the recycling crow. She talked, did her impersonation, and laughed in Balinda's face. Par for the course!

So what happened to the Animal Ambassadors while John & Balinda were gone? Our twenty awesome volunteers stepped up and filled the gap! Here you see two of them, Aubrey and Susan working with Simon the Owl and Astro the Falcon.

This took a lot of extra work on their part, coming in daily for several weeks, plus taking the Carolina Raptor Center course for 10 weeks. They will be leaving for Orlando themselves soon to receive a week of intense training from the people who produce the animal shows at Disney. Look them up, [NaturalEncounters.org](http://NaturalEncounters.org) Two of our long-term goals here are to build up a community of trained volunteers who can step into our roles should anything happen to us, and to set the stage for rebuilding the rehabilitation program here at the Nature center. Thank you, team!

Remember Mr. Skunk? So far we have had 23 cute names for Mr. Skunk submitted. Remember, the person who submits the name chosen will win a Funky Experience when it warms up in April! (a \$50 value!) We are not going to keep the skunk, as he is a wild, healthy animal and belongs in the wild. We are keeping an eye on him so he doesn't stumble into one of our raptor enclosures, and will eventually move him. We will leave the link below for 1 more week so you can email us your suggestion ...

My suggestion for a skunk name is: [Click here to Name Mr. Skunk!](#)



## [News from the White Mountain Nature Center](#)

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# Calling All Volunteers!

The Nature Center needs you! Register for our new Volunteer Force and help us do more than ever before to connect people with nature! Click [here to get started: WMNCVolunteerSignup](#)

We are going to need a bunch of new volunteers to help build a home for a new raptor we hope to get transferred to the Nature Center from a rehab facility back east. Do you know how to work a drill? A variety of saw types, install sheet metal roofing material, dig hard dirt to make way for gravel? We need you!

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## White Mountain Eagle Fest, Saturday Feb. 25

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is partnering again with the White Mountain Nature Center in Pinetop-Lakeside, Ariz., for this year's Eagle Fest.

Eagle Fest will open starting at 9 a.m. with a Family Friendly program, followed by a live eagle presentation by Liberty Wildlife and a presentation about eagles in Arizona from Phoenix, and even more information from an AZGFD biologist.

Then, bald eagle viewing will be available to all participants from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at nearby Lazy Oaks Resort on Rainbow Lake to observe bald eagle behavior first-hand, weather permitting. AZGFD biologists and experienced naturalists will be there along with a limited number of binoculars and spotting scopes.

Participants are advised to dress appropriately for weather conditions for that day and to bring a set of binoculars or spotting scope for improved observation.

Directions to the viewing location will be available at the Nature Center.

**While you are here, buy a Eagle Fest shirt with the beautiful design by Anne Groebner that you see above. Don't think you can get one later at Walmart, you can't!**

For questions or more information, please call Dan Groebner at the Pinetop Game

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and Fish office at 925-532-2305 or [dgroebner@azgfd.gov](mailto:dgroebner@azgfd.gov)

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A \$10 donation to the White Mountain Nature Center is suggested for adults.

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