

Hawk Haven becomes a non-profit organization



Photo by Paul Ulmen

Executive Director Leslie Winnop'rapacki with her favorite bird of prey from the ELC Hawk Haven.

Paul Ulmen
Photo Editor

Hawk Haven, a Wildlife and Rehabilitation & Education Center, is now separate from the Environmental Learning Center under non-profit status. While many people are familiar with ELC, they may not know that the grounds also house a center for endangered birds.

Executive Director Leslie Winnop'rapacki said, "The center specializes in environmental education and rehabilitation for all birds and mammals and provides a sanctuary for all non-releasable wildlife."

According to Winnop'rapacki the center now houses 17 types of birds. These include golden and bald eagles, a red-tailed hawk (named Sedona), a ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon, saw whet owl, barn owl, screech owl and a great horned owl.

There is also a one-eyed kestrel, which is the smallest type of falcon in North America. It is a flighted bird (allowed to fly) and they use him in demonstrations for educational purposes.

"These all belong to the Federal Government and we have them under permit from both the State and Federal Government. All the birds we have here, have some type of injury and cannot be released into the wild as they would not be able to fend for themselves. They are not loving or affectionate in any way nor do they make good pets, they just respond to food," she said.

Winnop'rapacki worked with ELC for 10 years and when they merged with the college she decided to privatize.

"I've been meaning to do this for years. The Center now depends upon grants and donations for its support. Anyone that wants to can become a member and the membership fees help to feed the wildlife and maintain Hawk Haven. We also give tours for all ages, from preschool to adults."

"We do 150 traveling shows and tours a year, both "North-

west Birds of Prey and Hunters of the Night." The birds are also available for commercials and T.V. shows," she said.

Winnop'rapacki grew up on a farm and has been around animals most of her life. While in college her major was biology. She gained her first experience with birds by volunteering at the Washington Park Zoo and later came to work for ELC.

"Right now we are doing very little rehabilitation because of limited space. We now have three and one half acres in Estacada and plan to build a facility there where we will eventually do all our bird rehabilitation. We'll keep the facility here and specialize in the Northwest Birds of Prey exhibit," she said.

In addition to herself and one other staff member, biologist Katie Higgins Wheeler, she relies on 25 volunteers and college work study. She also teaches a class for young people 12 or older, so they can come in and work with the birds.

"Some have asked about the size of the cages, thinking they were a little small. It's an appropriate size for their type of injury and lets them be handled easier by the staff. All the birds are taken out every day. This allows them to stretch their wings and get a little exercise."

They're unpredictable---there can be some trauma as well as comic relief with some of their crazy antics. We have had two red tailed hawks for ten years who now for the first time have mated. It's been interesting watching their courtship," she said.

In addition to the wild birds she also feeds numerous ducks and chickens. One rooster and hen have been together for 10 years.

"That's Charles and Lois," she said pointing to the pair. "He gives her a break with the chicks and watches them for awhile. I never knew a rooster would take such good care of the little chicks. They literally rule the roost around here, no pun intended."

CCC celebrates the environment

Photos by Paul Ulmen

CCC Life Science
Instructor Bob
Misley, rocks out on
his guitar during
Environmental
Week.



Environmental Week
had both its fun and
serious events. The
Oregon Clean Stream
Initiative was a little
of both.

Activist speaks on variety of topics

Paul Ulmen
Photo Editor

Environmental activist Randy Tucker spoke on a variety of environmental topics last Thursday during CCC's Earth Week. Tucker who works for the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) talked about the advantages of an expanded bottle bill.

In 1971 Oregon paved the way for the rest of the nation by becoming the first state to pass a bottle bill. Roadside litter in Oregon was reduced by over 80%. "The end result is, it saves energy resources and keeps our roadsides and beaches clean," said Tucker.

"But the bill only covered carbonated drinks, like pop and beer. Since then, there are all these new drinks such as bottled water, Snapple, iced teas and Gatorade that aren't carbonated and not covered under the original bottle bill," said Tucker.

"The beverage and container manufacturers and the retailer are all making huge amounts of money selling containers. Before the bottle bill was passed the consumer simply threw it away. The hidden costs are garbage pick-up and landfills paid for by the consumer. The cost of recycling and litter cleanup should be paid for by them, not the public."

"The people making the money don't want to deal with their own mess. Now they are going to spend \$4 million on campaign adds trying to tell us it won't work. This is in spite of the fact that over 80% of Oregonians are in favor of the new bottle bill," he said.

"The manufacturers's and retailers don't like to deal with the mess they are creating and force the costs off on the public as a whole and we are the ones

that ultimately pay to clean it up. If we can get the stuff off the curb and recycled, it is an added benefit."

"Recycling is different in other countries. In Germany everything is recycled, even televisions and cars. This means it is made to last longer and easier to recycle.

I don't mind paying more if it incorporates the cost of recycling into the cost of the product," said Tucker.

Another problem that Tucker

groups are working to roll back our environmental and public health laws.

These laws should be strengthened, not weakened."

"Corporate profits are not more important than public health. Our elected officials are not making decisions based on what's good for the country, but on what's good for their corporate contributors and sponsors," said Tucker.

According to Tucker, things have gotten so bad, "in congress we're letting lobbyists write the bills and they tell the congressmen and senators how it is supposed to work, not the other way around. At one time our elected officials went to the lobbyists to pick up their campaign contribution checks and as they did so were told, 'oh, by the way, this is our agenda and how we would like you to vote.'

"This is why Campaign Reform Initiative # 9 was passed by 72%. This bill limits how much money can be given in campaign contributions. Every single county overwhelmingly supported it throughout the state. Yet opponents of the bill try to overturn it or find a way around it."

"Who are the people who oppose it? Usually the people putting big money into it. The special interest groups that try to weaken the federal laws or find a way around them. This allows companies to continue to pollute our drinking water and dump toxins into our rivers without having to be responsible for clean-up and removing toxic waste. If you want to know what is really going on, follow the trail of money. We're trying to get big money out of politics," said Tucker.



Photo by Paul Ulmen

Activist Randy Tucker.

touched on was the amount of money special interest groups spend in order to repeal or weaken federal laws that have already been passed. One such law was the Safe Drinking Water Act that was passed in 1974.

Quoting from the literature Tucker handed out, "in 1993, 400,000 citizens in Milwaukee got sick from drinking tap water contaminated with cryptosporidium and more than 100 people died. Over 45 million people drink water from systems containing that chemical."

"In the last 25 years, a series of laws have been passed that protect the environment and public health. Today some members of congress and special interest