



RMRP Bids Fond Farewell to Director

Judy Scherpelz Retires After
30 Years of Exemplary Service

Dearest Friends,

I can hardly believe that I have been a part of the RMRP for thirty years. It has been a lifetime and a moment since I took the reins of a tiny, nearly unknown student club.

Who knew it would become the nationally recognized program it is today?

You have been with me through this amazing journey, and I can't thank you enough for being the support I needed to take this little seed and help it grow.

After thirty years, it is time to start a new journey. I am retiring, entrusting the mantle of Executive Director to our long-time staff member and Education Director, Carin Avila. Carin has been a part of the RMRP for over sixteen years, and is very excited to start this path on her own journey.

I will spend the next couple of months helping Carin transition into her new role, retiring from my position on December 31, 2017.

The Board has asked me to serve as Chairman Emeritus, and I'm excited to still be a part of the RMRP's future as I focus on other pursuits and spend time with my family.

You will be a part of me forever, as I could never forget those who helped bolster a mission thirty years in the making.

Warmest Regards,

Judy Scherpelz
(soon to be
formerly)
Executive
Director

PS—I invite you to celebrate thirty years of saving lives as I bid you farewell at the Gala Dinner and Benefit Auction on Saturday, March 3, 2018.



Photo by Bob Maynard

Thirty Years

By the Numbers

5817

Raptors Rescued

17 Million+

People Educated

30+

Research Projects

1

Amazing Mission

The Slaying of the Dragon

A Tale of Knights in Shining Armor

Although we have done some pretty crazy things to rescue raptors, this one takes the cake. And the frosting. And probably some cookies, too.

On a stifling 100°F summer day in July, we received a call from the Swetsville Zoo, an amazing display of creatures created out of found metal objects by artist Bill Swets. The concerned citizen said that it looked like a bird was stuck in one of the sculptures, so we sent Rehabilitation Coordinator Mike Tincher to the rescue.

He headed out, not knowing just what this rescue would entail.



Yes, that's a fledgling American Kestrel caught in the jaws of a dragon.

Upon arrival, Mike located the distressed bird...***in the mouth of a giant metal dragon.***

Yes, he had to **SLAY A DRAGON.**

A pair of American Kestrels had taken over a nest (probably built by Starlings) situated in the “throat” of the dragon. Unfortunately, twine was incorporated into the nest.

The twine tangled itself around the leg of one of the youngsters. When the fledgling tried to leave the nest, it became stuck and was unable to free itself.

Mike tried everything to get the Kestrel out of the dragon's mouth, but the welding was too solid and the bird's precarious situation meant just “pulling” him out could cause irreparable harm.



His leg was a bit abraded and painful from the twine tangled around it, but the fledgling Kestrel was otherwise unharmed.

Seeing his only chance to save the fledgling, Mike punched his way through a rusted area of the dragon's throat. That's right:

HE PUNCHED. A DRAGON. IN THE THROAT.

This allowed Mike access to the youngster and the tangled twine. Successfully rescued from the jaws of the dragon, the Kestrel was mostly uninjured besides a tweaked leg.

A few weeks to recover and the little fledgling Kestrel was released back to the wild...*far away from dragons.*

And even though we always knew Mike was a knight in shining armor, he now has the credentials to go with it.



Oh, the story this little guy has to tell.

25th Annual Gala Dinner and Benefit Auction

MARCH 3, 2018



Don't miss this milestone extravaganza! This momentous occasion will celebrate thirty years of saving raptors, the retirement of Executive Director Judy Scherpelz, and the welcoming of new Executive Director Carin Avila.

BID • DONATE • THRIVE

Item submissions being accepted now!
Until February 10th, 2018

Tickets go on sale January 1st, 2018
Early Bird Price: \$55 • Save \$20 versus
at-the-door prices • \$60 after 1/31
Priority Seating Table of Ten: \$600

The Event:
March 3, 2018
Doors Open at 5pm
At the Fort Collins Hilton
425 W. Prospect Road
Fort Collins, CO 80526
Special Room Rates Available

Watch
www.rmrp.org
on January 1st
for the ticket
sale link.

Holiday Open House

December 16,
2017
11am-3pm

720 E. Vine Drive
Fort Collins, CO

*Raptors
Family Fun
Gift Shop
Knowledge*

Photo by Rae Ann Garrett



ON SALE NOW!

2018 RMRP Photo Calendars Available

Find them at www.rmrp.org/store

Last day to order for delivery by Christmas:

December 14, 2017

Or pick one up at our Open House!

Staff: Judy Scherpelz, Executive Director. Carin Avila, Executive Director in Training. Lisa Winta, Assistant Director/Volunteer Coordinator. Gail Kratz, Rehabilitation Director. Mike Tincher, Rehabilitation Coordinator. Lynsey Reed, Donor Relations Director. Jessica Miller, Education and Outreach Coordinator. Bonnie Cleaver, Education Avian Coordinator. Carrie Laxson, Rehabilitation Associate. Ashley Hagenloh, Rehabilitation Associate.

Board of Directors: Judy Scherpelz (Chairman Emeritus), Rick Snow, Jerry Craig, Todd Kerr, and Dyanne Willow.

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Raptors have been returned to the wild for their **Second Chance at Freedom** so far this year.

These are the faces of your success:



We used **\$150** in bandages. Can you help purchase more?



I needed **\$700** surgery to heal my wounds. Can you make sure more raptors like me get the surgery they need?



We needed round-the-clock, hands-on care to treat West Nile Virus. **\$1000** can provide a raptor almost everything it needs to return to the wild.

EVERY donation makes a difference to a life on the brink. Thank you!



If you donate to the RMRP on Colorado Gives Day, you qualify the RMRP for ***all kinds of incentive funds***.

Starting November 1st, you can pre-schedule your donation at your convenience. Make sure it goes through on **December 5th** so it will qualify for the awesome incentives, or simply join the party on the 5th.

www.coloradogives.org

Last year we raised \$33, 246! **Our goal this year is \$36,000.** Can you help us get there? We'll be live tracking our progress on Facebook!

This Part is Boring

But Super Useful

Figuring out your end-of-year taxes can be a real headache. Here are some ways the RMRP can help you out:

- **Gifts of Appreciated Stock, Bonds or Mutual Funds:** When you donate securities directly to the RMRP, you may get a tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities, while avoiding capital gains taxes.
- **Gifts From Your IRA:** Direct gifts from your IRA count towards your required minimum distribution without adding tax liability.
- **Bequests—Become Part of the Legacy of Freedom Society:** All you have to do is name the RMRP as a beneficiary of your estate (and you can name any amount or percentage that you wish); or name the RMRP as a beneficiary of a bank or investment account. Bequests are often the largest gift a donor ever gives, and can make a lasting impact for the RMRP in your name.

Questions? Call us at 970-484-7756.

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We strive to inspire the appreciation and protection of raptors and the spaces where they live through excellence in rehabilitation, education, and research. We are supported by donations from caring people, like you, who want to make a difference in the world.

REHABILITATION • EDUCATION • RESEARCH