



PHOTOS BY LISA HELLIER

Amber Ringwood, vet technician, takes a rescued hawk to the raptor complex at the All Things Wild facility.

Wild animals offer education

Continued from 1B

Rescued animals are diagnosed and a treatment plan determined. The injury, severity and healing process determine the outcome for each animal. The organization's ultimate goal is to save and release as many wild animals as possible back into their home where they belong — the wild.

The facility started as an empty piece of land that now has a care facility and a separate enclosures for deer, doves and raccoons. The center also has a large complex for raptors divided into five sizes for different periods of care.

Future plans include building enclosures for foxes, skunks, squirrels and possums. Ella Krail, local high school student and future wildlife biology major, said volunteering for ATW and working with wildlife is a great experience for her.

"Being able to be here and work hands-on with the animals, you get to learn a lot and it helps you to understand the animals' behavior and how they interact with their environment," she said.

The organization has a program that educates and supports wildlife conservation through out-reach programs. The organiza-



A rescued owl is being trained to be an education bird at All Things Wild Rehab.

tion will take education animals to classrooms, scout groups, service groups or churches and talk about wildlife and their role in our environment. The education animals could not be released back into the wild and are giving basic training as part of the program. Presentations cost \$25 and should be requested one month in advance.

Ms. Laughlin said the organization is highly regulated and follows all Texas

Parks and Wildlife Department standards to ensure proper care, housing, treatment and safety of animals.

The organization will host a free Winter Party for Wildlife from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. December 7 and 8. Wildlife enthusiasts can tour the facility, meet education animals and purchase animal-themed gifts and hand-crafted items to benefit the wildlife in rehabilitation. RSVP through Eventbrite to secure a spot.

Library thankful for volunteers

BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

Georgetown Public Library volunteer Sandra Spurlock is one of the many community members who actively help out in the library.

She checks in and shelves books, and she also recently started helping with new book processing. She has volunteered at the library for four years.

"Our library really sees itself as a service to the community in ways I wouldn't have known if I wasn't a volunteer," she says.

"They have reached out to patrons in need and connected them with community services. Home delivery is provided to people who have no other way to get materials. I have overheard many a phone call for any request, many having no relation to the library services, handled with patience. Much time and attention is dedicated to curating local art so you're always seeing something new. I am very proud of our Georgetown Public Library."

Sandra says, "The people — both staff and other volunteers — are the main reason I look forward to volunteering each week. It is such a positive atmosphere, and everyone really seems to enjoy being there. And the staff really makes you feel appreciated.

"I also get ideas for future reading — shelving books is a great way to see all the library has to offer. I like to get recommendations from my fellow volunteers as well."

Sheri Miklaski is the library's outreach coordinator.

She is a librarian, and like most of us she wears multiple hats — she selects books for the adult fiction collection, she drives the bookmobile that takes library materials and services to people across town, she works at the Circulation, Kids' and Reference desks and more. She also wears the volunteer coordinator's hat.

Sheri enjoys working

with the library's diverse population of volunteers. "They have such a variety of backgrounds," she notes.

The average Georgetown Public Library volunteer works one day a week for 2 hours.

But some volunteers come in two days a week and one couple comes in one day every week for a 6-hour stint. Of the library's 149 current volunteers, 47 are teens — whose time ebbs and flows over the school year — and 94 are active adult volunteers. The library occasionally accepts groups and communi-

during tax season.

Last year our wonderful library volunteers donated more than 15,600 hours of their time and expertise. It would take an additional 7.5 staff members to get all of that daily work done without the volunteers, so having that level of support from community members gives the staff the time they need to offer additional programs and services.

"We could not have won the Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal in 2018 without our volunteers," Sheri notes.

She says good volunteers are friendly and don't not mind interacting with the public and people who may come from a different back-

"The people — both staff and other volunteers — are the main reason I look forward to volunteering each week. It is such a positive atmosphere."

Sandra Spurlock

volunteer, Georgetown Public Library

ty service volunteers too.

One thing that can be confusing is different routes for volunteering. Individuals can choose to work with the Friends of the Library organization or with the library staff. The Friends organization is a nonprofit whose mission is to raise funds for the library.

Friends volunteers manage the Hill Country Authors Series and the Second-Hand Prose bookstore in the library.

People who want to help with those and other fundraising efforts should consider joining and getting involved with the Friends organization.

Volunteers who work with the library staff, on the other hand, have different responsibilities. The biggest task is checking the condition of returned materials, checking the items in, and then re-shelving them.

Library volunteers check in and shelve more than 95 percent of the materials. A handful of volunteers also help with processing new materials, marking withdrawn items or cleaning toys and materials in the Kids' room.

An even smaller handful help out with restocking donated magazines, providing tech support for patrons at the Wired Wednesday programs, helping out at kids' and adult programs or providing income tax help

ground or hold different religious or political beliefs. Sandra's advice for anyone who's thinking about volunteering is to be prepared to be busy. She said books come in constantly coming and there is always something to do.

"We are always looking for people to help us out in the evenings and on weekends," Sheri says, "as well as those with cooperative knees who are able to shelve materials on the low shelving in the Kids room."

To become a volunteer, complete a paper application available at the Circulation Desk or on the library website.

Potential volunteers attend a training/orientation and set a schedule with Sheri.

She says the library hopes to have an online portal that potential volunteers can use to apply for volunteer opportunities with other city departments as well as with the library.

The staff of the Georgetown Public Library are grateful year-round for all our volunteers. With Thanksgiving coming up this week it seems a good time to note how very thankful we are for every one of them.

See you in the library!

Dana Hendrix is the Fine Arts Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

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Select library events

- November 26-January 5 Karen Limbaugh: *Sharing My View of Nature* exhibit
- November 27 Library closes at 6 p.m.
- November 28-29 Library closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- Through December 7 Gary Nowlin: *Landscapes* exhibit
- December 9-January 12 Waterloo Watercolor Group: *Tell Me a Story ... Art as Narrative* exhibit. Artist Reception is January 12 from 2-4 p.m.
- December 13, 6:30 p.m., Polar Express in PJ's
- December 14, 1-2:30 p.m., Tween Cool Coding (ages 9-12, limited to 32 participants, free tickets available one hour before the program)
- December 14, 3-4:30 p.m., Teen Mystery Masquerade (ages 12-18)
- December 15, 2 p.m., Sounds Like Home with Jessica Mathaes and Alex Maynegre-Torra (Live Music at the Library)

Consult the Library Events Calendar at library.georgetown.org for more information about these and other library programs.

About the Sun

On May 19, 1877, *The Williamson County Sun* printed its first issue, a simple four-page broadsheet. Today the *Sun*, over 142 years old, continues to publish on the Square in Georgetown and is the longest-running business in the county. In 1974, the *Sun* added a weekend paper, *The Sunday Sun*, and in 1981 it launched a weekly advertising companion, *The Sun Advertiser*.