



On The Wings Of Eagles

July 2003

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A memorable moment at the Alaskan Bald Eagle Festival in Haines, Alaska

Take a tour of the American Bald Eagle Center. The first in a four part series walks you through the history of the Chilkat River Valley as depicted through the center's diorama.

Foundation's Founder and Trustee talks about new partnerships and programs at the Center.

Rehabilitation of the Spirit

Anyone who has observed a child at play with the family pet or glued to the TV set watching a wildlife adventure film for the 23rd time, understands the special bond between children and animals. The attachments we form with wildlife come at a very early age and play an important role in the development of our personality, values and adult relationships.

Behavioral studies have shown the important positive effects that wildlife experiences have on children especially when these experiences are shared with an adult. At the American Bald Eagle Foundation Center, we hold the education of visitors as our most important mission. From our cultural and wildlife diorama to our Alaskan Wilderness display, we teach the wonders and natural lessons of wildlife.

With every visitor to the center we have the opportunity to witness the expressions of joy and wonder on the faces of young and old alike as they learn of their complex connection to wildlife and our nation's wild places. Every so often, however, an event comes along that even catches us by surprise and reminds us all of the importance of our mission. Such an event happened at this year's Alaska Bald Eagle Festival.

One of the most popular and inspirational events of the festival is the release of a rehabilitated bald eagle. This is made possible through your contributions to the American Bald Eagle Foundation and the good work of the Bird Treatment & Learning Center of Anchorage, Alaska. In attendance this year was the Hanes family: Bob, Cherri and their 11-year-old son Jeremy.

This was to be a special day for Jeremy. He was selected to assist in the release of the last of the three eagles. What happened in that split second is best left to the



camera's eye, and the memories of those who were privileged enough to be present. The smile says it all. The best summary of what took place last November in Haines comes from the father of wildlife conservation, Aldo Leopold in his book *Sand County Almanac*:

“Like people, my animals frequently disclose by their actions what they decline to divulge in words. It is difficult to predict when and how one of these disclosures will come to light”

Thank you, Jeremy, for bringing one of these disclosures to light. May your spirits soar on eagle's wings.

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AMERICAN BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

November 12 - 16, 2003

Make Plans To Attend In 2003. For more information:

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