



On The Wings of Eagles

WE WILL MISS THEM

INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE

ED SHIRLEY



On June 24, 2005 the American Bald Eagle Foundation (ABEF) and the world lost a great man and a great friend. International Trustee for the ABEF, Edward Paul Shirley, passed away following a long battle with cancer.

From his obituary: Ed “was a true patriot and deeply loved his country — especially our national bird, the bald eagle. In his younger years he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, was a Boy Scout leader, and became a 32nd degree Mason. He attended both the University of Arizona and the University of Cincinnati. His professional career included co-founding the Invacare Corporation — serving in both vice president and president roles over many years.

He served on the Boards of Directors of the American Bald Eagle Foundation, the Florida Oceanographic Society, The Navigators, Wildlife Forever, and co-founded the Shirley Family Foundation with his wife.”

Ed has been an incredibly generous benefactor to the ABEF. It was due to his love of the bald eagle and his vision -- from small details to the large picture -- that the ABEF enjoys its present facility and numerous displays. The diorama featuring early inhabitants of the valley is one such display. One of his most valued gifts was his sage advice, which has guided the leadership at the ABEF. Ed planted a seed that will affect many generations. His work was not in vain and his presence will be missed by all.

INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE

JAY HAMMOND

Former Governor of Alaska, Jay Hammond, died on August 2, 2005, at age 83, peacefully at his home in Lake Clark, Alaska. He served Alaska as its governor from 1974 to 1982 and was greatly respected and admired.

Hammond loved and respected the environment in which he lived and the wildlife with which he shared that environment. Even as a developer of Alaska’s natural resources, Hammond ensured that development did not proceed at the expense of environmental protection. He especially loved eagles and was a great friend and supporter of the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines, Alaska. He served as International Trustee of the Foundation from its inception – lending his name to its efforts and championing its causes.



It has always been a dream of the American Bald Eagle Foundation to create a research facility in Haines that would bear his name. Though he did not survive to see that dream realized, it survives in the heart of the Foundation. We are honored to have been affiliated with such a great man.

The American Bald Eagle Foundation

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dave Olerud
Alaska

Dan Hart
Alaska

Harold Williams
Alabama

INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEES

Ed Shirley
Georgia
Executive Trustee
1988 - 2005
In Memorium

Hans Fluehler
Quebec

Douglas DeVries
Vermont

Dr. Jim Scott
Alaska

Gov. Jay Hammond
Alaska
Charter Trustee
1982 - 2005
Deceased

Preston Cook
California

TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Erv Boeker, Colorado
Dave Cline, Alaska

We're Having A "Mew" Experience!

The American Bald Eagle Foundation is happy to announce that it is in the planning and fund-raising stages to construct an eagle "Mew" adjacent to the existing Foundation building. With any luck, construction will begin in the Spring of 2006.

"What is a mew?" you might ask. We tasked research assistant and former bird handler, Christa Rayl, with explaining the concept as she has had "mew" experience. The following is her article:

A mew is an enclosure for large birds – usually raptors – that are used in falconry or are being kept in a rehabilitation program. The mew for the American Bald Eagle Foundation will house eagles that cannot be released back into the wild due to extensive injuries that would not allow them to survive in their normal environment, such as extensive wing damage, loss of sight in one or both eyes, loss of the helix (rear facing talon) or a broken beak. Using such birds in an educational program gives the largest number of people an opportunity to learn from the birds as they are being cared for.

A mew consists of three solid walls and one wall of fencing or mesh that will allow the birds to be exposed to the outside environment. Materials used in the interior of the mew must be non-treated so that the eagles do not come in contact with harmful chemicals. Flooring must be natural dirt with good drainage to help prevent damage to the feet. The eagles will require ample room to move about their enclosure, including perches at different levels, ramps for those birds that may not fly well, and ground space that allows them to walk freely. Perches last longer when covered with plastic grass matting (astro turf).

Eagles must learn to tolerate a person coming into the mew on a regular basis to fill water bowls, clean off perches, and clean and rake the ground surface. These activities are introduced over a period of time so the eagles will recognize that the person is not going to hurt them. The eagles that will come to the ABEF mew will have already had their human indoctrination at another rehabilitation center.

Space for food preparation and appliances, including a freezer and refrigerator, are necessary for the efficient feeding of the birds. Eagles should be fed daily in the morning and late afternoon and can eat a variety of foods, including fish, quail, pheasant, and rats. They prefer fresh food, but become accustomed to eating thawed food over time. If the eagles do not need assistance in eating, a large fillet of fish can be given whole. If an eagle does not have full use of its beak, the food must be cut into smaller pieces to allow it to eat easily. The amount of food given will change throughout the year to ensure the eagles maintain their proper weight without losing or gaining too much. They need free access to large water bowls at all times.

Eagles require regular maintenance when in captivity because they may not be able to do all the natural activities of wild birds. Eagle "maintenance" includes things such as trimming beaks and talons, and bathing. These activities require a space large enough for 2 or 3 people and a strong chair for the person holding the eagle. Regular health checks will also be needed to ensure the birds remain in good shape. Eagle handling is hazardous and must be done very carefully, with more than one person present. Handlers will use tools such as gauntlets (big leather gloves covering the arm), hoods (to cover the eagle's eyes to keep it calm) and a sheet to keep it from damaging its wings by thrashing while being held.

Fund raising efforts are ongoing. If you would like to donate to the project, you may make a tax-deductible donation to: American Bald Eagle Foundation "Mew Project", P.O. Box 49, Haines, Alaska 99827.

Watch for the Mew Grand Opening announcement in a future newsletter, and come have "A Mew Experience" with us!

INTERN'S CORNER

Sandi Godfrey
ABEF Research Assistant



I am currently a student at Georgia Southern University studying recreation and community programming. It may not seem like the most prestigious degree, but exploring human happiness is more meaningful and fulfilling to me than any of my previous business classes. I am truly satisfied with the path I have chosen in life -- for one thing, it has led me here to this magical part of the world -- Haines, Alaska. I would have never imagined being in Alaska, but God does work in mysterious ways. The fresh clean air leads me deep into the wilderness even if I am standing in the middle of Main Street. I often catch myself wandering around town lost in its beauty. This beauty is a new sensation for me. It is difficult to appreciate and find beauty in the scorched land of Southern Georgia this time of year. I was amazed by the perfect 70-degree weather, bright sunshine, and the wildflowers that seemed to smile back at the sun. There is a presence here stronger than I could ever comprehend. The warmth and hospitality of the Olerud family and the people of Haines touched my soul as if I were back in the south again with my family-- wholesome and unconditional.

I've experienced a whole different type of education from spending the summer here in Haines than the one I received at college. Working at the American Bald Eagle Foundation has awakened me from my sheltered existence. By studying animals at the Foundation, and in their natural habitat, I have developed a greater appreciation, understanding and respect for them. This experience has brought me closer to nature and especially closer to my creator.

It saddens me that I never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ed Shirley, the dedicated and generous man who created this program for students like me. He has changed my life in many ways. I would never have had this wonderful opportunity without his big heart and kindness. I would like to thank the Shirley Family Foundation and the Olerud family for giving me these precious treasured moments. I will cherish this experience forever and I will hold a special place in my heart for the American Bald Eagle Foundation and Haines, Alaska.



ABEF MISSION STATEMENT

The American Bald Eagle Foundation is dedicated to the conservation of the American Bald Eagle and its natural habitat.

What's That New Thing on the Wall? (or.. I Don't Remember That Being There!)

by Jennifer Attaway

There is a new animal on display at the ABEF. Lee and Margo Clayton of Haines have donated a mounted rough-eyed rockfish to decorate the wall of the specimen room. Lee caught the fish on July 3 in 700 feet of water using a commercial long line while fishing near Indian Rock. Before mounting, the fish weighed 45.5 pounds and was 44 inches long. According to some sources, every 30 pounds indicates 100 years of age, making the fish one of the oldest things in the building.



"Old Rocky"

New/Renewing Members

Ken George * Thomas Hill * The Vickers Family
Brian Irslinger * Monica Neese * B. Hope Wolf
William & Joyce Smith * Carol Dubin
Jean E. Kyle * Martin & Wendy Nuetzel
Patricia Roush * Ralph & Dee Howard
Janet McWhorter * Paul Shearer
U.A.S.S.E. Library Dept. * Dr. John Bondi
Ronald Crone * Marian Miller * Alan Traut
Hope Rutledge * Phyllis Worden * Sandra Zajac
Vern & Georgia Dayhoff * Holly Hoxeng
John Robert Turnbull, Jr. * Dayle DeClercq
Jacque & Ron Horn * William Bristol
Nelson DuBois * Peter W. Burnside * Stan Alex
The Scarrott Family * Barbara Carvey * Sherri King *
Joy & Glenn Adams * Claudia & David D'Hooge
William Petrovic * Betty L. Roberts
Rosemarie Howerton * Marlynne Stoddard
Allen & Phyllis Janis * Gail M. Taylor Rikard Ekstrand
Marc Bemelmans * Ralph & Betsy Hanson
Thomas Storrar * Glenda Crawford
Jen Webster & Kevin Nolan *

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Fran & Karen Wallace
Michelle LaBrosse * Anthony Flowers

If you would like to be part of a dynamic conservation organization, please complete the application below and return it to the American Bald Eagle Foundation.

Support from members all over the world allows the American Bald Eagle Foundation to work for the conservation of the bald eagle and the wildlife with which it shares its habitat through our innovative education and research programs.

Remember -- your contributions are tax-deductible. Thank You!

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

STUDENT*	\$15.00	SILVER	\$100.00	
INDIVIDUAL*	\$25.00	GOLD	\$250.00	LIFETIME** \$1,000.00
FAMILY*	\$40.00	PLATINUM	\$500.00	
CORPORATE**	\$5,000.00	BENEFACTOR**	\$10,000.00	PATRON** \$20,000.00

*International rates for these membership levels are \$10.00 higher, i.e. , \$25, \$35, & \$50 respectively
**These membership levels may be paid for in five (5) equal installments

DONATION: \$ _____ [If you do not wish to join the ABEF but would like to make a donation, any amount is appreciated].

NAME: _____ **MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:** _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ **CITY, STATE, ZIP** _____

PHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed Please charge my Visa or Mastercard (circle one):

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____ **EXPIRATION DATE:** _____

American Bald Eagle Foundation
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