

## **Great Horned Owl Rescue in Chenequa: April 15 -16**

On the morning of April 15, 2010, after strong winds the previous evening, Chenequa village resident and Board Trustee Jo Ann Friend Villavicencio, spotted a juvenile Great Horned Owl huddled against the trunk of a tree near her home's driveway. Not yet mature enough to fly on its own, it had sought shelter from possible predators under the tree.



***Juvenile Great Horned Owl seeks shelter near a tree after falling off his nest.***

The young owl's nest had been blown off a tall pine tree located within a grove on adjacent land owned by the village. A call was made to The Wildlife In Need Center Ltd. in Oconomowoc. Soon thereafter, Ms. Karen Freitag, Operations Team Leader at the center, and volunteer Linda Wiedmann, came to the Villavicencio property to secure the owl.



***Wildlife in Need volunteer Linda Wiedmann handles the young juvenile owl.***

A search of the area, aided by the Villavicencio's and Village Forester Jeff Kante, allowed the group to successfully identify the likely tree on which the nest had been located. The Wildlife in Need Center's staff removed the owl from the field and took it back to their headquarters, where he was examined for injuries. Found to be physically fit and none the worse for wear, the owl was kept under observation overnight at the center. The following day, after being fed a breakfast of minced moose meat, the juvenile owl was brought back to the village. This time, he was accompanied by Ms. Freitag and Roy Fredrick, a volunteer tree-climber. Upon arrival, they prepared a new nest made from a wicker basket and pre-cut pine boughs, to act both as nesting material inside the basket, and to camouflage the nest among the tree's branches.



***Karen Freitag and Roy Fredrick prepare the new owl nest.***

Once the needed preparations were concluded, Roy transferred the owl from its car transportation case into a backpack for climbing the tree.



***Owl is placed in backpack to be carried up the tree.***

Backpack and wicker basket firmly secured to his climbing gear, Roy climbs the tree and secures the new nest on the tree branches with elastic bungee cords. He then places the owl into the new nest.



***Juvenile owl is placed into new wicker basket nest.***

The young owl soon made himself comfortable in his new home under the watchful eye of his mother, who had been observing the proceedings from a safe distance, but soon made her way to where her young one had been relocated.



***Juvenile owl looks out from his new tree home.***



***Mother owl looks down from her safe perch. Great Horned owls are large birds and can grow to be over 2 feet in length, with wingspans of 5 to 6 feet.***